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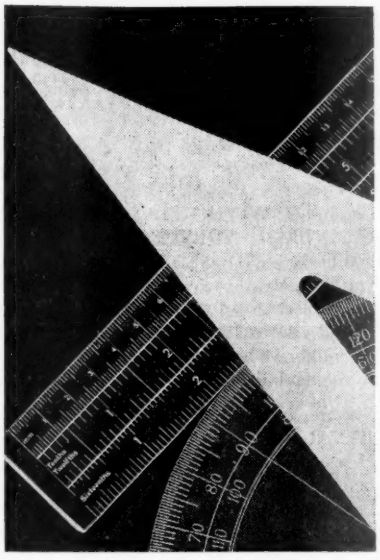
Trade and Industry

25 July 1974



140 countries representing more than 99 per cent of the world's population use the metric system or are in the process of changing to it. Only 0.5 per cent of UK Exports went to non-metric countries in 1973, but 36.2 per cent went to countries in the process of changing to the metric system; Norman Stone looks at progress in these countries on page 174.

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Maplin Airport review says runways at existing London airports can cope with traffic forecast up to 1990

A reduction in the forecast growth of air passenger numbers, a greater fall in the forecast number of air transport movements and a dramatic cut, by 1990, in the disturbance created by aircraft noise are three principal conclusions in the Government's review of the Maplin airport project published on 18 July.

The report has been prepared by officials of the Department of Trade, the Department of the Environment and other Government Departments and of the British Airports Authority and the Civil Aviation Authority.*

In a preface, Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, says the report contains the results of the reappraisal of the Maplin project for a third London airport which he announced on 21 March this year. It provides the essential basis for consultation with the organisations affected about the airport development needed to accommodate future London area air traffic and for subsequent Government decisions. He adds that it is the purpose of this report to provide the necessary basis of fact and assessment on which the decision making process can be carried forward.

The report consists of 10 chapters covering air traffic forecasts, airport capacity, selection of scenarios, regional airports, noise, urbanisation, infrastructures and costs, and aviation issues; there is a full summary in Chapter 10. Among the four appendices is a summary report by the Natural Environment Research Council on the Biological consequences of constructing Maplin Airport.

The following are some of the main points contained in the chapters.

Air traffic forecasts

Passenger demand forecasts at London area airports for 1990 range between 114 million and 78 million without a Channel Tunnel and between 106 million and 73 million with the Tunnel. This compares with 29.4 million for 1973 and with the CAA forecast of 84 million by 1985, published in May 1973.

The report explains that there are three main reasons for the forecast check in growth – they are the substantial increase in aviation costs resulting from the recent world oil price rises; a modified view of the response of leisure travellers to changes in the cost of travel; and a less optimistic view has been taken of the future rates of growth of incomes.

For the purposes of assessing and comparing the airport development needed to cater for increased growth under various strategies an assessment figure of 85 million was selected from the range of forecasts. The comparable air transport movement figure in 1990 is about 450,000.

Runway capacity

The report concludes that 450,000 air transport movements would be comfortably within the forecast runway capacity of the existing London area airports of about 620,000 movements by 1990. Even at the top end of the forecast range the four London airports can be expected to accommodate all the air transport movements likely by 1990.

Terminal capacity

The report examines the possibility of constructing a new terminal on the southern side of Heathrow to bring the airport's capacity to 38 million passengers a year and a further terminal on the western side to bring capacity to 53 million. Current developments at Gatwick will cater for 16 million passengers; this could be raised to 25 million with a second terminal.

Stansted's capacity could be raised to 16 million with a new terminal and terminal developments at Luton could bring capacity to 10 million. With all these additions the four London airports could, by 1990, handle over 100 million passengers annually. The report points out that since Maplin could not be built before 1985 developments would have to cater for demand up to that date in any case, most of this being catered for under current development plans at Heathrow and Gatwick.

The scenarios

The report examines various ways the forecast London area traffic might be handled and, for this purpose, devises four scenarios to show the implications of different solutions to the airport problem.

Scenario 1. WITH MAPLIN. Heathrow and Gatwick would continue to take extra traffic, but Luton and Stansted would be closed to air transport movements. Under this plan, Heathrow and Gatwick would take 38 million and 16 million passengers in 1990 respectively and Maplin would be handling 28 million.

Scenario 2. WITHOUT MAPLIN, SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT LUTON AND STANSTED. Passenger traffic at Heathrow and Gatwick would be as in Scenario I. But traffic at Stansted would rise to 16 million and at Luton to 10 million. There would be some diversion to regional airports.

Scenario 3. WITHOUT MAPLIN. REGIONAL DIVERSION: In this Scenario Heathrow and Gatwick would expand as before, but Stansted and Luton would not be utilised beyond their minimum viable levels – 4 million and 3 million respectively. This scenario assumes that 24 million passengers would need to be diverted to regional airports.

Scenario 4. WITHOUT MAPLIN. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AT HEATHROW AND GATWICK. Traffic at Heathrow and Gatwick would expand to 53 million and 25 million respectively. Heathrow would be extended over the present sludge disposal works site at Perry Oaks, and Gatwick would have a second terminal.

Regional airports

A special study was carried out into the consequences of diverting part of the London area traffic to airports in the regions on the scales envisaged in the second and third scenarios. The general conclusion was that most of the diverted passengers, which in the third scenario, include about 20 million with origins or destinations in the South-East, would choose Bournemouth, Birmingham and East Midlands airports. There would be slight increases at Manchester, Bristol and Norwich airports, but every other airport in the UK would be virtually unaffected.

Noise

This was given particular attention in the review and the results show that the position in 1990 will be dramatically better than at present around London area airports. This is because by that year over 90 per cent of air transport movements are estimated to be by new quieter aircraft types.

Even with the higher use envisaged for Heathrow and Gatwick the numbers within the 35 NNI contour (equivalent to a low annoyance rating) fall from over 2 million in 1972 to about 460,000 in 1990.

With substantial developments at Luton

* Maplin: Review of Airport Project. Available from HMSO price £1.50.

and Stansted the numbers within the 35 NNI contour still fall by 1990 from the 24,000 now affected at Luton to 2,000, and at Stansted from the present 4,000 to 2,000. It is estimated that virtually no one around those airports would be living in areas subject to medium annoyance rating or higher.

The construction of Maplin gives rise to the least noise disturbance, but even so some 315,000 people in the Heathrow and Gatwick areas would remain within the 35 NNI contours after Maplin was open and, in any case, Maplin could not give any relief before 1985.

A substantial increase in traffic at Bournemouth, Birmingham and East Midlands airports would prevent the improvement in the noise situation that would otherwise take place. At the higher levels of traffic envisaged the situation would be worse than at present in some cases.

Cost, urbanisation and access

The report contains estimates of airport development and surface access costs. These show that the cost of enabling Maplin to cater for 28 million passengers would be about £650 million by 1990. This is roughly double the cost of further expanding Heathrow and Gatwick or of developing Stansted and Luton to take slightly fewer additional passengers; but the investment at Maplin would have a considerable capacity to meet further long-term growth. Maplin surface access would include a high speed rail link providing a high standard of service; the full development of Heathrow would give rise to serious access problems.

Urbanisation likely to be needed for Maplin would be in keeping with the South East Strategic Plan. Large scale development of Stansted would run counter to the plan. Expansion at Heathrow must be regarded as inflationary. Employment increases at Gatwick and Luton would take place in areas where there is not expected to be any slack in the local economy. With restrictions on London airports, growth in the regions is likely to take place in areas which are already relatively congested.

Peter Shore announces abandonment of Maplin Project

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, announced in the House of Commons on 18 July that the Government had decided to abandon the project for a third London airport at Maplin.

In his statement, Mr. Shore said: 'On assuming office, the Government undertook to re-examine certain major transport projects and on 21 March I announced that I had set in hand a re-appraisal of the Maplin project for a third London airport. This has now been completed and the report of the re-appraisal has been published today.

'Seven main conclusions emerge from the re-appraisal. First, the forecasts of air passenger demand are significantly lower than was envisaged previously. Secondly, up to 1990, no further main runways will be required at any of the four London area airports at Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Luton. Thirdly, the passenger handling capacity required to accommodate the forecast traffic up to 1990 is not now dependent on a new airport at Maplin. Fourthly, the noise nuisance is expected to be much lower than was forecast by the Roskill Commission. Fifthly, whether or not Maplin were built, capacity at Heathrow would need to be expanded from its present 20 million passengers a year to 38 million and Gatwick from 6 million to 16 million. Sixthly, beyond that, further capacity would be required from the mid 1980s which could be provided through a new airport at Maplin or by some combination of developments at existing London area airports with the possibility of some diversion of London traffic to regional airports. Finally, the cost of accommodating the forecast traffic at Maplin is now estimated at about £650 million. This is nearly twice as much as the next most expensive alternative considered in the re-appraisal.

'In the light of this, the Government consider that the case for a new airport at Maplin has not been established, and it has decided to abandon it.'

'The review has particularly examined the question of aircraft noise. I am deeply conscious of the distress suffered by those who live near airports. However, the review shows that Maplin would not have a great effect on total noise disturbance. First, if Maplin were built it could not affect the level of noise at existing airports, before 1985. Secondly, by 1990 at London area airports, nearly all air transport movements are expected to be by new quieter types of aircraft. This means that, with or without Maplin, there will be marked improvements in current noise levels at these airports. But there can be no relaxation in our efforts, and I am determined to achieve a further and progressive improvement in noise by tackling it at the source on the aircraft, by intensifying night jet curfews, by revised operational techniques and improved facilities for noise insulation.

'I asked for special consideration to be given to the role of regional airports. Consultants were commissioned to undertake a separate examination of the scope for diverting traffic to the regions. Three main conclusions emerged from that work. First, to achieve any significant diversion would involve transferring large numbers of passengers with origins and destinations in the south east. Secondly, passenger demand suggests diversions to Bournemouth, Birmingham and East Midlands rather than to airports farther afield. Thirdly, major diversions to the regional airports could involve noise and other environmental problems in the areas concerned. Nevertheless, I have asked my officials to consider the regional possibilities in greater depth, both to relieve the pressure on the south east and to help in the development of other regions. I should like to see as much traffic transferred as possible.

'The review was conducted in co-operation with the British Airports Authority and the Civil Aviation Authority but it was not possible in the time available to engage in consultation with the local authorities and other organisations affected. A number of submissions have been received from local authorities and we shall now be consulting them and other bodies concerned about the way the future traffic will be handled.

'I am sure that the House will wish to debate the matter of London air passenger traffic as soon as it has had a reasonable time to consider the review.'

Maplin Development Authority

Following the Government decision to abandon the Maplin airport project, the Maplin Development Authority will be dissolved, Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in the House of Commons on 18 July.

In a written reply to a Question, Mr. Crosland said:

'The Maplin Development Authority was consitituted, in accordance with the provisions of the Maplin Development Act 1973, to reclaim land at Maplin and Foulness Sands for the establishment of an airport and a seaport. My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade, in his statement to the House today, announced that the Government had decided to abandon the Maplin airport project. In the circumstances I have concluded that it is not appropriate to keep the Maplin Development Authority in being.

'In May this year I directed the Authority to minimise its expenditure on existing commitments and on running costs, and to make contingency arrangements for closing down its activities at such a date as I might further direct. I now propose, after due consultation with the Authority, to direct it to cease further activity and to discharge its remaining obligations. As soon as is convenient I shall seek powers to dissolve the Authority.'

Price Commission interventions: correction

The Price Commission has announced that in its list of interventions during June published in *Trade and Industry* of 18 July (page 109), a pre-notification from Russell Hobbs Ltd. for an average 12.78 per cent increase on a range of small domestic electrical appliances was wrongly listed as having been rejected.

'Aids to Financial Management' for small businesses

A new guide for small firms, 'Aids to Financial Management' has been published by the Department of Industry. It is the latest in a series of booklets intended specifically to help owners or prospective owners of small businesses. The publications are issued as part of the free service given by the Small Firms Information Centres, located in major towns and cities throughout Britain.

'Aids to Financial Management' considers the common pitfalls in the area of financial management to which small firms have been found to be especially prone and outlines those simple techniques which are available to managers to facilitate their avoidance. It covers credit, stock and budgetary control, various types of financial facilities and it reviews the alternative sources of finance available to meet short, medium and long-term needs. The financial organisations most appropriate for the small firms sector are also studied.

The author is Dr. A. E. B. Perrigo, managing director of Aston Technical Management Planning Services Ltd., University of Aston. He was Director of the Small Business Centre at University of Aston from 1967 to 1973 and is author of several management publications.

'Aids to Financial Management' can be obtained from Small Firms Division, Department of Industry, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN. Tel. 01-834 4422 or from any of the Small Firms Information Centres.

Small Firms Information Centres were set up as a result of the Bolton Committee of Inquiry recommendation that an information service should be provided to enable small firms to make full use of sources of helpful advice.

The Centres give free sign-posting help on all aspects of business management including financial, technical and official matters.

Changes in operation of the IDC control

Changes in the operation of the industrial development certificate control were announced on 18 July by Eric Heffer, Minister of State for Industry.

In a reply to a written Parliamentary Question from Mr. Ted Fletcher (Darlington), who asked the Secretary of State for Industry whether he had completed his review of the operation of the industrial development certificate control, Mr. Heffer said:

'The essential purpose of the IDC control is to secure a better economic balance between different parts of Britain. This can only be achieved by ensuring that the needs of the assisted areas receive first priority in the operation of the control. I have, therefore, been considering whether changes should be made to strengthen the operation of the control.

'So far as the statutory basis of the control is concerned, I have decided to lower the limits below which certificates are not required subject to the statutory provisions concerning "related development". An order is being prepared to give effect to the new limits, and will be laid before Parliament in due course. The order will reduce the limit from 10,000 sq. ft. to 5,000 sq. ft. in South East England, comprising Greater London and the administrative counties of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex. The limit in the rest of England outside the intermediate areas will be reduced from 15,000 sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft. In recognition of their status as assisted areas the intermediate areas in England, Wales and Scotland will retain their existing exemption limit of 15,000 sq. ft. The development areas (which include the special development areas) will remain outside the area of control.

'I have also considered the policy framework for the operation of the control. Each IDC application is necessarily considered on its individual merits. This involves evaluating the case for carrying out the development at the proposed location by reference to distribution of industry criteria. The criteria include, in particular, the labour resources of the locality concerned and the extent to which the development is considered capable of being carried out in an assisted area. There is to be a more critical examination of IDC applications where the project is considered to be mobile. The needs of the active new and expanded towns outside the assisted areas will continue to be given second priority after the assisted areas in consideration of mobile projects. Applications by existing

Chancellor's 'Mini-Budget' changes

Dennis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the House of Commons on 22 July new measures whose primary aim is: 'to attack inflation at its source.'

Among the proposals announced by the Chancellor are:

Full use of VAT Regulator reducing the rate from 10 to 8 per cent with effect from 29 July.

Further food subsidies amounting to £50 million in a full year, within the programme announced in the March Budget, to be detailed shortly.

Regional Employment Premiums of £1.50 a week to be doubled with effect from 5 August.

The Chancellor also announced that the Imperial Iranian Government has offered to provide the United Kingdom with a line of credit of $1,200 million to be drawn on the form of three separate loans by public sector bodies within three years from now.

The Chancellor, who said he would be reviewing the position again in the autumn, declared: 'The measures I have announced so far will not only help to cut the cost of living and to increase employment but will help industry both in their effect on demand and by reducing labour costs through their effects on thresholds and through the REP.'

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First of two 'stretched' versions of the highly successful British Hovercraft Corporation SR.N6 hovercraft undergoing sea trials in the Solent. The new craft is fitted with twin low speed propellors powered by Rolls-Royce GN 1301 gas turbine engines, which although increasing power from 900 h.p. to 1,100 h.p., reduce noise and increase directional control power. Noise reduction is attributed to the fact that the propellor tip speed of the new craft is only half that of the present SR.N6 models, which are fitted with only a single propulsion system. A deeper flexible skirt increases passenger comfort and craft performance. By stretching the fuselage to 58 ft. an extra 20 passengers can be added to the payload, bringing its capacity to 58.

occupants to modernise and improve their premises (for example, in inner city areas), or to improve efficiency, will be considered sympathetically, if the projects involve only modest increases in labour and no change in the range of products. Applications for localities where labour resources are particularly scarce will be examined especially carefully, and may be refused whether or not the project is considered to be mobile.'

Under the IDC control, which was first introduced in 1948, an IDC is required to support an application for planning permission for industrial developments outside the Development Areas. Exemption from this requirement is given by law to projects below a specific size. The forthcoming Order will reduce the exemption limits.

The policy framework set out in the statement modifies in some respects the approach to applications described in the last Government's White Paper on Industrial and Regional Development (Cmnd 4942, paragraph 48(b)).

A general guide to the purpose and operation of the control was published in *Trade and Industry* for 21 June 1973. The guide should now be read in the light of the Minister of State's statement.

Expansion at Meadowfield

Chemidus Wavin Ltd. are purchasing a 25,000 sq. ft. advance factory on the Meadowfield Industrial Estate, Co. Durham.

Chemidus Wavin Ltd., who manufacture large pvc pipes for gas, water and sewerage undertakings, decided in 1970 to expand in the north east, having exhausted all available land at their premises in Ashford, Kent. The company then leased 20 acres at Meadowfield on which they had constructed a unit of some 200,000 sq. ft. and currently employ over 400 people.

First company for East Ord estate

Packmark Ltd. have occupied a 10,000 sq. ft. advance factory built by the English Industrial Estates Corporation for the Development Commission at East Ord, Berwick upon Tweed.

Packmark Ltd. who manufacture date stamping machinery, are transferring their entire operation from Richmond, Surrey to Berwick during the next few weeks. The company has a healthy and expanding order book and some 40 per cent of output goes for export.

About 60 to 70 men, including some transferred key workers, will be employed when full production is reached.

Plessey to occupy Government factory

Plessey Telecommunications Ltd., are leasing a Department of Industry factory of over 100,000 sq. ft. on the Huyton Industrial Estates Corporation.

The company are part of the Plessey Group who already lease extensive premises from the Estates Corporation in the north west and north east of England and are one of the largest employers on Government estates.

Plessey Telecommunications Ltd. will use the Huyton premises for the production of electronic telephone switching equipment.

'Trade and Industry' to publish news of regional assistance

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, announced on 19 July that each month he will publish details of offers of selective assistance under the Industry Act.

He told Parliament:

'Parliament and the public are entitled to detailed information on this subject, and I shall be arranging for it to be provided. Specifically, I am arranging now for the number of applications received and the number and value of offers made, on a Regional Office basis, under Section 7 of the Industry Act to be published monthly in *Trade and Industry*. The first statistics, for the months ended 31 March 1974, 30 April 1974 and 31 May 1974, will appear very shortly. This information will supplement the information about regional selective assistance which is published annually in the Industry Act Annual Report.'

More devolution of financial powers under Industry Act

From 19 July, the Department of Industry's offices in Scotland and Wales and the Northern, North-Western, and Yorkshire and Humberside regional offices will be able to deal with Industry Act loan applications of up to £1 million – double the previous limit – without reference to Headquarters offices.

This further substantial devolution of powers to the Department's regional offices was announced to Parliament on 19 July by Eric Heffer, Minister of State for Industry. Mr. Heffer said:

'Until now, the limit of delegated financial authority has been £500,000. Applications involving loans above this amount have had to be referred to the Headquarters of the Industrial Development Executive in London before an offer could be made. As from today, the limit for Scotland, Wales and the main Assisted Area Regional Offices in England is raised to £1 million and a corresponding increase is being made in the delegated limits for other forms of assistance such as interest-relief grants.'

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the proposed merger between Selection Trust Ltd. and Amari Ltd. to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

John Methven makes his first references to Monopolies Commission

John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading, has made his first references to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation. These are:

1 the supply in the United Kingdom of 'diazo' copying materials and
2 the supply in, and export from, the United Kingdom of insulated electric wire and cables.

Mr. Methven has asked the Commission to report on 'diazo' within 12 months and on wire and cables within 24 months.

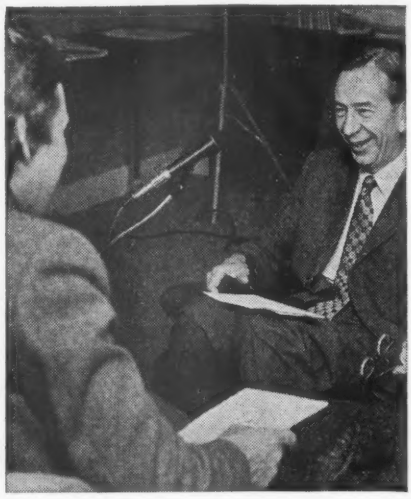
'Diazo' copying materials are paper, film, etc., treated with certain chemicals (diazonium compounds) for reprographic purposes, such as making blueprints. The main United Kingdom manufacturers of insulated electric cable and wire are British Insulated Callender's Cables, Delta-Enfield, GEC/AEI and Pirelli. The value of the British cable market is approximately £400 million, of which about £50 million is exported. The main manufacturer of diazo materials is the Ozalid Group.

Any person or organisation wishing to offer evidence in relation to these references should write to the Secretary, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT.

The Monopolies Commission's Report on *Parallel Pricing* (Cmnd. 5330), July 1973 recommended that this practice should be taken into account in considering what references should be made. This Report instanced cables and diazo materials as products where parallel pricing appeared to be practised.

These are the first monopoly references to be made by the Director General under the powers conferred on him by the Fair Trading Act, 1973. Previously only Ministers could make monopoly references.

A monopoly situation exists, among other conditions, if a single firm accounts for 25 per cent or more of the total United Kingdom supply of given goods or services. Reference to the Commission does not imply that the existence of a monopoly or any of the actions of a monopoly supplier are contrary to the public interest. This is for the Commission to judge on the basis of their investigations.



John Methven meets the media to discuss his first references to the Monopolies Commission

The Commission have the following monopoly references before them: primary batteries; contraceptive sheaths; indirect electrostatic reprographic equipment; wheat flour and bread; bricks; frozen foods; restrictions on advertising by accountants, veterinary surgeons and stockbrokers; and the charging of scale fees by architects and surveyors. A further six references are expected to be made at the end of July.

Economic information system for monopoly references

An economic information system is being developed in the Office of Fair Trading to assist in the selection of possible references of monopolies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The idea for such a system originated, and even implementation began, in the Board of Trade in the second half of the 1960s. The Department of Employment and Productivity took up the idea when the responsibility for competition policy was transferred to that Department; it then moved to the DTI in late 1970 and for a time went to the Monopolies Commission, when the last administration experimented with the idea of the Commission proposing its own references. Now the establishment of the Office of Fair Trading, containing a group of economists co-operating with the administrators responsible for policy implementation, gives an opportunity to take the original initiative and develop it within a stable and specialist organisational background.

It should be emphasised that the system is still being developed, and it is at present in a comparatively early stage.

Need for a screening system

The idea of developing a systematic examination of industry to select monopoly references arose at the same time as the rate of monopoly references began to increase in the 1960s, and this was also a time when Government powers over potential monopolies were increased by the power to refer mergers to the Commission; added to these was the evidence of economic detriment revealed in the previous references, which also suggested that a most systematic search procedure was necessary if the developing legislation was to have its full impact.

The starting point of the system is derived from the Monopolies Commission investigations and the developing work of industrial economics. It looks at the economic performance of industries in an attempt to

identify those, which for reasons of structure or conduct, fail to perform as well as they might.

The factual basis comes mainly from publicly available information, except that there are available some finer breakdowns of statistics than are published. Although there are data on individual firms which are collected in the Censuses of Production and Distribution, the Office of Fair Trading is precluded by the Statistics of Trade Act from having access to these, and to information on individual firms which is given on a confidential basis to other Government departments for the implementation of other policies. This has not yet been shown to be a major weakness in the system.

Selection process

The first stage of the selection process is a screening system which is designed to concentrate scarce investigation resources into those areas which appear to justify further examination. It is based on the three sections, headed conduct indicators, performance indicators and previous investigations.

As it is impossible to screen systematically all the products for which there is some information (the Census of Production, for example, collects information on about 4,500) Census groupings are used as a means of reducing these to a manageable size. When further examination is indicated a finer breakdown is made if this is necessary.

Conduct indicators – There are four conduct indicators:

1 The number of trade and consumer complaints which are made to the OFT.
2 Evidence or allegations about price leadership or price parallelism obtained from various sources.
3 The advertising/sales ratio of those industries using advertising.
4 The acquisitions indicator.

These are colour-coded when some aspect of conduct is suggested for further examination.

Performance indicators – The performance indicators are based on two aspects: the return on capital and the contribution to inflation.

A high rate of return on capital may not indicate an economic detriment, and so it is divided into two components – changes in margins and changes in capital turnover – to indicate the contribution of each. The data is obtained from the analysis of 800 company accounts published by the Government statisticians, except that for capital turnover, which is obtained from individual company accounts. Colour codes again indicate situations to be examined.

The inflation relative is included because this is an aspect of economic performance which is likely to be of interest for some time ahead, and its importance in situations of restricted competition was noted in the Monopolies Report on Parallel Pricing. The relative is calculated by dividing the wholesale price index for the products by the index of material and fuel input prices. Those groups making up the top quarter of observations of this ratio are colour-coded.

Previous investigations – The final section indicates any previous Monopolies Commission investigations, as a recent monopoly reference would normally preclude another – unless there was strong evidence of major changes in conduct or performance of a detrimental kind. It also indicates whether there are any restrictive agreements which have been approved by the Restrictive Practices Court, since this may be relevant to a reference to the Commission. Also being examined is a number of markets where there is some evidence of parallel behaviour, and where restrictive agreements existed in the past, especially those which were abandoned only comparatively recently.

Further investigations

The data has been compiled and entered on to a large wall chart, and those industries have been extracted where colour-codes indicate that further examination would be justified. There are about 30 of these and some are being broken down into smaller product markets. At this stage the conduct and performance indicators are matched up with the data which indicates whether there is a monopoly or a highly concentrated market, and it is from these that most monopoly references are likely to be made in the future.

The system is at present rudimentary, but the foundation having now been established is being extended in a number of directions. It is intended to add, for example, further indicators covering size, growth, efficiency and the degree of concentration.

It should be emphasised that the system does not itself automatically produce the industries which will be referred to the Commission. It does, it is believed, provide on a systematic basis the possible candidates to be considered for reference. The final selection will depend on more detailed investigation and on discussions with the production departments.

Charter Consolidated Investments Ltd. and Sadia Ltd.

The merger between Charter Consolidated Investments Ltd. and Sadia Ltd. is to be allowed to proceed, Alan Williams, Minister for Prices and Consumer Protection announced on 18 July.

In a written parliamentary answer to Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend), who asked if the report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had been received Mr. Williams said:

'Yes. My Rt. Hon. Friend received the report on 9 July. The Commission has found that the proposed merger may not be expected to operate against the public interest. My Rt. Hon. Friend will be laying the report before Parliament, and publishing it, as soon as possible.'

Enlarged offshore supplies office to play key role in securing North Sea oil benefits

'OSO is an essential weapon in our armoury in our fight for the prosperity and benefits which are to be derived from North Sea oil' Dr. Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with special responsibility for North Sea oil and gas, said on 18 July. Dr. Strang, who was speaking at the Offshore Supplies Office in Glasgow, was giving a progress report on the Government's plans for the expansion of OSO and for the relocation of its headquarters in Glasgow.

He said: 'The Government's decision to expand the OSO and to move its HQ to Glasgow was announced in April of this year. The decision attracted much interest, and was, I believe, generally welcomed.

'It is only natural, therefore, that those who expressed interest in that decision should now look to the Department of Energy for an indication of the progress we are making towards achieving the goals we have set ourselves.

'That is why I thought it would be useful if I could come to Glasgow today to give you a progress report on OSO. I think you will find that the news I have to give you is encouraging.

'In the four months since the Government came to office, we have taken major decisions on the coal industry, on nuclear power, on energy conservation, and on North Sea oil. Our decisions in these very important areas will affect not only the people working in these industries, but the people for whom they work, ie the consumers of energy – and that means every person in the country.

'In this context, our plans for maximising the benefits of North Sea oil for the people of the UK, especially of Scotland and other developing areas, are no less important. Nor are our plans for OSO.

'We see OSO as an essential weapon in our armoury in our fight for the prosperity and benefits which are to be derived from North Sea oil.

'This is a point I cannot stress too strongly. The benefits to be won are very substantial. For that reason alone, they will not be won easily. International competition is, and will continue to be, intense. We must match that competition – and win.

'There is too much at stake in terms of jobs, in terms of prosperity, in the creation of skills that will help us win contracts in all parts of the world where oil-related offshore activities are taking place, and in terms of balance-of-payments.

'The discovery of offshore oil and gas in the North Sea created a huge new market for goods and services right on our doorstep. The UK offshore supplies market is now estimated to be running at approximately £500 million p.a. For those firms which can meet the demanding standards of the companies

operating in the North Sea in terms of price, of specification and delivery times, this market offers unique opportunities.

'The opportunities exist for companies throughout the country. But we are determined that they should exist in full measure for firms in the west central area of Scotland. Our decision to re-locate the headquarters of the Offshore Supplies Office in Glasgow is evidence of our determination to encourage much more involvement on the part of industry located in this area and to give it every encouragement to share fully in the benefits of North Sea oil development. The siting of the headquarters of OSO in Glasgow is also an important element in our strategy for ensuring that Scotland becomes the focal area for decision making in the development of North Sea oil.

'OSO was created to help British industry to maximise its share of the UK offshore supplies market. It does this by pursuing two principal aims. These are:

1 to ensure that British firms are given a fair and equal opportunity to tender for North Sea oil-related contracts
2 to help create an indigenous oil-related expertise, particularly in Scotland and the developing regions of Britain, which will bring benefit to this country not only in the context of the North Sea but in other sectors of the UK Continental Shelf and in all parts of the world where offshore technologies may be in demand.

'This Government attaches the highest importance to the creation of a major British offshore supplies industry. We do not yet possess such a capability. Its creation is, for me, a matter of top priority. And that is why we decided that OSO must be dramatically strengthened. I am happy to tell you that we are now within sight of achieving our objectives.

'Expansion has meant seeking staff, and seeking premises from which they can work.

'Our first task was to find suitable offices in Glasgow for the headquarters of OSO. I am very pleased to be able to tell you today that we have decided, for our immediate purposes, to locate the OSO headquarters in the building currently occupied by the National Industrial Relations Court. This must, of course, be subject to Parliament's approval of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill.

'On staff, we intend to increase the present total of about 60 to, ultimately, some 150. Of this number approximately 90 will be based here in Glasgow, and the balance in London. At present, the allocation of staff between the two centres is 47 in London and 11 in Glasgow. This shift in emphasis demonstrates clearly our determination to make Glasgow the headquarters of, and nerve centre for, the Offshore Supplies Office.

'Of the 90 or so staff proposed for Glasgow, 25-30 will be engineers or scientists. This corresponds to 20 engineers or scientists who will be based in London. To help us recruit suitably qualified people in the right numbers, the Government is about to embark on a paid advertising recruitment drive in the national press and in selected trade and professional magazines.

'The new, enlarged OSO will comprise four main branches. These will be concerned with:

Policy development and other administrative work
Analysis and appraisal of the market and work to promote technological development
Monitoring operators' procurement policies and purchases (in liaison with the London office, which will retail the staff needed for close contact with the oil companies headquarters purchasing organisations)
Liaison with the headquarters and with other parts of Government for ministerial, parliamentary and miscellaneous administrative work.

'In addition, Venture Managers, who are essentially 'marriage brokers' putting together the separate resources of money, organisation, manpower and technology to create a new resource, will be based in Glasgow and London.

'The heads of the first three branches will be based in Glasgow. So, too, of course, will Mr. Peter Gibson, Director-General of the Offshore Supplies Office and Mr. Alan Blackshaw, the Deputy Director-General, Mr. Blackshaw is the newest recruit to OSO. He comes to us from the Department of Energy's Oil Policy (Overseas) Division, where he has been concerned with economic and financial issues. Previously, he was on loan from the Department to the Charterhouse Group in the City. I am very pleased that both Mr. Gibson and Mr. Blackshaw have been able to join us today: the occasion of this progress report is a very timely opportunity for me to be able to introduce to you the two most senior officials in OSO. I am sure you will get to know them very well in the months ahead, just as you got to know Mr. Tom Buyers, who has been in charge of the Glasgow office for the past year. Mr. Buyers has now been appointed Director of Engineering for the whole of OSO. He will, of course, continue to be based in Glasgow.

'As with the creation of new organisations, major expansions such as the one we are contemplating cannot be achieved overnight. But we are proceeding with a sense of urgency, and I believe we are making good progress.

'Glasgow will formally become the headquarters of the OSO in September. By then, the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General and the core of the new headquarters staff will be operating from here. Over the remaining months of the year the strength of the headquarters will be increased towards its full complement of about 90 as more people are recruited.

'The new Offshore Supplies Office will then be well placed to help British industry spearhead the drive towards capturing an increasingly large share of the valuable offshore supplies market.'

VAT: mileage allowance decision

When VAT was imposed on petrol and other road fuel in the last Budget a practical difficulty arose for many employers who pay mileage allowances to employees using cars on the firm's business. Although registered for VAT, firms were unable to recover the tax paid on their employees' purchases of road fuel.

To overcome this difficulty, and after consultation with trade bodies, Customs and Excise have now decided that if a reasonable allowance is paid by an employer to cover the cost of road fuel purchases, and nothing else, the appropriate 'VAT fraction' of it may be treated as input tax. At the rate of 10 per cent, fraction is one-eleventh of the allowance. Tax invoices will not be required.

An employer adopting this arrangement must use mileage rates which are reasonably close to the figures published from time to time by the principal motoring organisations. Local Customs and Excise VAT offices can help with this information.

The employer must also keep a record for each employee, showing:

1 Miles travelled on business journeys
2 Make and model, or engine capacity, of the vehicle
3 The reimbursement and its basis of calculation
4 The 'VAT fraction' of the reimbursement (dependent on the current tax rate)

It is expected that for many firms the employee's expenses claim will have sufficient information to serve as a basic record, in which case the employer will simply summarise the details at the end of the tax period. In any case, expenses claims must be kept as evidence to substantiate tax deductions on the periodical VAT return.

Some mileage allowances cover not only the cost of road fuel but also other expenses, such as road tax, insurance, maintenance, depreciation and so on. A composite mileage allowance of this sort cannot be accepted as the basis for calculating the VAT. But if an employer can apportion the allowance between road fuel and other expenses he may still claim an input tax deduction, provided the road fuel part is reasonably close to an acceptable rate for the vehicle used.

Where a flat rate annual allowance is paid, regardless of mileage covered, neither the allowance nor part of it may be used to claim relief from VAT.

Customs and Excise are prepared to accept retrospective claims for road fuel purchased on or after 1 April 1974, provided that satisfactory evidence is available. Any registered trader in doubt about this should get in touch with the local Customs and Excise VAT office.

This information will be included in *VAT News* No. 3, which will be sent in August to everyone registered for VAT.

Official appointments

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, has approved the following appointments:

John David Jackson of Leeds, Yorkshire, to fill a vacancy on the Post Office Users' National Council. Mr. Jackson, who is managing director of Centaur Clothes (Manufacturing) Ltd. and a member of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce, will be the representative for the Post Office Advisory Committees in the North East region.

Thomas Robb Coughtrie, JP, of Abergavenny, Gwent, and Ronald Cyril Meakins of Broughton, Chester, commercial manager of Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd., Chester, a vice-chairman of the Confederation of British Industry Committee for North Wales, to fill vacancies on the Post Office Users' Council for Wales.

Sir Matthew Stevenson, KCB, CMG, has been re-appointed as a part-time member of the British Steel Corporation for a further period of one year from 19 July 1974.

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has approved the following appointment:

Mrs. Freddy Bloom, OBE, to be a member of the Hearing Aid Council from 17 July 1974 in place of Mr. Laurie Pavitt, MP, who has resigned. Mrs. Bloom was the founder chairman of the National Deaf Children's Society and is now one of the Society's vice-presidents as well as chairman of its Welfare Committee and editor of its quarterly magazine *Talk*.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
8 July 1974		
1,185,527	Centre de Recherches du Fer Blanc	Method of tin-plating sheet steel by electro-deposition
1,220,819	Mar-Pha Societe d'Etude et d'Exploitation de Marques	Improved bismuth salt
1,231,251	Terence Redvers Wheeler	An applicator assembly
1,287,578	Ateliers J. Hanrez, Societe Anonyme	Combustion heater
1,316,897	VEB Maschinenfabrik Und Eisengiesserei Dessau	A drive system for driving an electrical generator.
1,318,379	Lekapak Verpakkingindustrie NV	Improvements in or relating to containers
1,330,633	Albright & Wilson Limited	Improved paint composition
929,600	Friedrich-Wilhelm Jeroch	Device for heating or cooling a medium, particularly air, using high pressure
11 July 1974		
1,256,514	Arthur Shaw Manufacturing Limited	Improvements in or relating to bolts for doors, windows and like closure members
1,259,567	International Standard Electric Corporation	Push-button switch for chatterless switching
1,292,395	International Standard Electric Corporation	Improvements in radio receivers
1,313,146	International Standard Electric Corporation	Cursor control system
1,162,077	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Apparatus for the automatic measurement of spring pressure
1,254,362	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	A method of providing ohmic contacts on gallium arsenide
1,262,913	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Method of forming a transversely corrugated tube
1,273,428	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to measuring instruments
1,275,196	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to gain control circuits
1,290,532	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Endless magnetic recording bands produced by electro-deposition
1,304,910	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Pulse regenerator equalisation
1,306,597	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Bobbin for square modulator pot cores
1,317,982	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Exponetial waveform generators

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above Patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patents Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Safety of Loads on Vehicles

Code of Practice

People are too often killed or injured in accidents caused by badly secured loads falling off lorries. Carrying a load safely to satisfy the broad terms of the law is the responsibility of everyone in road transport and this code gives full guidance as to how loads should be secured, and needless casualties avoided. It is hoped that everyone concerned in the road transport industry will learn from the code and help to make the incidence of a falling load a thing of the past.

30p (by post 36½p)

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HMSO BOOKS

CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Minerals and Industrial Development Officer

PO. 1(a) £3,390 – £3,846

APPLICATIONS are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates in respect of the above named vacancy.

Cornwall has a large extractive industry, including China Clay, metalliferous mining and stone quarrying. The County is also an 'Assisted Area' under the Local Employment and Industry Acts.

Candidates should have experience in drafting and implementing policies to attract industry, and to be capable of undertaking negotiations with industrialists and mineral operators. A thorough understanding of Planning and associated legislation in these matters is required. Competence in written presentation is essential.

Applications stating age, education, qualifications and experience, and including the names and addresses of two persons to whom reference can be made, should be sent to the County Planning Officer, County Hall, Truro, not later than 8th August 1974.

Candidates should also state whether to their knowledge they are related to any Member of or the holder of any senior office under the Council. Canvassing disqualifies.

Parliament

Monday, 15 July

UK trade

A statement on the United Kingdom's current trading position was asked for by Mr. David Steel (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles).

Mr. Shore answered: 'In the second quarter of this year the improvement in trade in goods other than oil was more than offset by a worsening in the visible trade deficit resulting from a further increase in the deficit of trade in oil.'

Company law

Mr. Bob Cryer (Keighley) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would seek powers to prevent directors of compulsorily wound up companies from engaging in the subsequent formation and operation of corporate bodies and partnerships.

'It would be unfair to impose an automatic penalty on directors simply because they had been involved in the affairs of a company which had been compulsorily wound up,' Mr. Clinton Davis answered. 'However, when new legislation comes to be prepared, we will consider widening the powers of the Courts to disqualify persons from taking part in the management of companies.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Anthony Wedgwood Benn
Ministers of State: Eric Heffer
Lord Beswick
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Michael Meacher

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Insurance Companies Act 1973

Mr. Ray Carter (Birmingham, Northfield) asked several questions about the operation of the Insurance Companies Act 1973; about the possibility of amended legislation to deal with failures in the supervision of insurance companies; about the staffing of the Department of Trade's insurance section; about insurance companies for whom trustees have been appointed; about the number of insurance companies failed since the Insurance Companies Act was passed and about the submission of annual accounts by insurance companies.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered that the Department of Trade was making substantial use of the powers given by the Act, and further regulations were being drafted. It was however too early to judge the full effectiveness of the Act.

The Insurance Division of the Department of Trade employed 91 staff on 1 July compared with 33 on 1 January 1971.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that the Annual Report on Insurance Business, published on 5 July 1974, gave figures of requirements imposed on insurance companies during 1973 and in earlier years to place assets with an approved person. To date requirements under Section 16 of the Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973 had been imposed on 65 companies, whether newly authorised or otherwise, of which 37 carry on Ordinary Long Term insurance business. In addition, numerous similar requirements imposed on companies under Sections 65(1)(c) and 80(1)(c) of the Companies Act 1967 before 25 July 1973 were still in force.

With regard to insurance companies in liquidation since the Act, Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'Since July 1973 one insurance company that was in difficulty, Bastion Insurance Co. Ltd., has gone into liquidation. The interests of policyholders were protected as an insurance industry consortium made arrangements for meeting their claims. A petition by Nation Life Insurance Co. Ltd. for winding up is to be heard in the High Court on 29 July.'

Referring to insurance companies' annual accounts, he said: 'Most insurance companies are due to deposit their returns by 30 June. As is usual in July a number are outstanding, but this is reducing day by day. Only three small companies are now in arrears from earlier dates; two are no longer accepting new business and are simply running off liabilities whilst the third is carrying on property insurance business. Notices under Section 22 of the Act have been served on all three companies informing them that my Rt. Hon. Friend is considering restricting their business.'

Nation Life Insurance Company

Mr. Carter also asked several questions about the financial collapse of the Nation Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'My Department has been in close consultation with this company, and a requirement for assets to be placed with an approved trustee was made in September 1973. There are some 32,000 policyholders. If a winding-up order is granted, it will be the duty of the liquidator when appointed to establish the extent of any deficit that may exist; present indications are that substantial funds may be available. My Department has established that certain leading insurance companies will assist the liquidator, if one is appointed, in carrying out his obligations under the 1973 Act.'

Mr. Carter asked why, following the collapse of Nation Life Insurance Company, the Secretary of State for Trade did not take over its responsibilities in accordance with his powers under the Insurance Companies Act 1973.

'There are no powers under the Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973 to take over an insurance company or its responsibilities,' answered Mr. Clinton Davis.

Mr. Carter also suggested an inquiry into the collapse of Nation Life.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The company's own petition for a winding up order is to be heard by the High Court on 29 July. Any inquiries by my Department into the company's affairs prior to the Court's determination of the issue could be held to be an infringement of the powers of the Court. In the event of a winding-up order being made it would be the duty of the Official Receiver to inquire into the affairs of the company.'

Tourist industry

Questions were asked by Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) and Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow, Central) on proposals to encourage tourism in Great Britain.

'Our policy remains to promote the development of tourism both to and within Great Britain,' answered Mr. Deakins. 'To that end provision has been made on the Votes of the Departments concerned for expenditure in 1974/75 under the Development of Tourism Act 1969 totalling £22 million.'

Mr. Frederick Willey (Sunderland, North) spoke of 'the continued shortage of hotel accommodation in the Northern Region', and asked if the provisions for financial aid to hotel development would be reconsidered.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'I have no evidence to suggest that there is an overall shortage of

hotel accommodation in this area which has already benefited from grants provided under the Hotel Development Incentive Scheme. Section 4 of the Development of Tourism Act enables the English Tourist Board to consider applications for assistance for hotel projects situated in Development Areas within the Region.'

Trade deficit with EEC

Mr. Patrick Cormack (South-West Staffordshire) asked how the percentage trade deficit with Britain's partners in the European Economic Community compared with the percentage deficit with the rest of the world in 1973.

Mr. Shore said: 'The trade deficit with the EEC was £1,119 million, 24 per cent of imports from the EEC; for the rest of the world the comparable figures are £1,256 million and 14 per cent.'

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked about the UK's trade deficit with the EEC since 1 January 1973, and Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester) asked for the percentage increase in British exports to the Community since 1 January 1973.

Mr. Shore said: 'The *crude* trade deficit (ie the difference between exports fob and imports cif) was running at an annual rate of £2,000 million in the first half of 1974 following a crude deficit of £1,167 million in 1973. Over this eighteen month period exports were, on average, 51 per cent higher than in 1972.'

Trade with Russia and Chile

Mr. Piers Dixon (Truro) wanted to know the volume of UK trade in 1973 with Russia and Chile, respectively.

Mr. Shore answered that published figures showed imports from Russia and Chile as £331 million and £57 million cif respectively and exports £97 million and £17 million fob.

Exports to Arab countries

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) asked what steps were being taken to secure major export orders from Arab countries.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The British Overseas Trade Board is actively engaged in drawing the attention of industry to export opportunities in the Arab world wherever they arise and in implementing trade promotion programmes agreed with industry.'

Trade with the Commonwealth

Mr. W. W. Hamilton (Central Fife) inquired about plans for increasing trade with the Commonwealth.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The British Overseas Trade Board is working for increased trade with our major trading partners, including the Commonwealth. I hope that my Rt. Hon. Friend's recent visit to Canada, and his forthcoming visits to Australia and New Zealand, will reinforce the Board's efforts. Her Majesty's Government is also seeking improved access for Commonwealth exports as part of the renegotiation of the terms of British entry into the European Economic Community.'

Trade with African countries

Figures were requested by Mr. Ioan L. Evans (Aberdare) showing the value and volume of trade with countries in Africa (north of the Zambesi) over the latest available 12-month period; and the prospects for the maintenance and improvement of this trade.

'Volume figures are not available,' said Mr. Deakins. 'By value, exports were £655 million fob and imports £617 million cif in the year ended May 1974. Prospects of increasing trade with oil producing countries are good; but many of the others are hard hit by the higher costs of their essential imports. However, I am hopeful that our trade with the area as a whole will continue to grow.'

Import controls and export subsidies

Mr. Ronald Atkins (Preston, North) asked if further consideration would be given, because of the worsening balance of trade, to trade policies like import controls and export subsidies.

'No,' said Mr. Shore, 'much of the present deterioration in our balance of trade is due to the sharp increase in the price of oil. It is important that we and the other oil consuming nations should not seek to solve this problem by general measures restricting trade.'

Chemical exports

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow, East) asked about the proportion of British exports of chemical goods going to the rest of the European Community.

'Thirty-eight per cent in the first five months of 1974,' said Mr. Deakins.

Imports and exports of motor vehicles

Mr. Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked for an estimate of imports and exports of motor vehicles in 1974 and 1975; and the proportion exports of motor vehicles was likely to represent the UK total exports in those years.

Mr. Deakins said: 'It is not the practice to venture such estimates; however in January to May this year 174,000 motor vehicles and chassis were imported and 297,000 were exported, the latter representing 4.3 per cent by value of total UK exports.'

Shipbuilding and ship-repairing industries

'*What contribution to British overseas trade is made by the shipbuilding or ship-repairing industries?*' *asked Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth).*

'During 1973 exports of ships and boats were £124 fob and repairs to foreign ships earned £23 million,' answered Mr. Deakins.

Subsidiaries of overseas companies

Mr. Tom King (Bridgwater) asked about the contribution made to the export market by subsidiaries of overseas companies manufacturing in Great Britain.

Mr. Deakins replied that direct exports by overseas controlled enterprises accounted for about a quarter of UK exports in 1972, the latest year for which information is available.

Exports of pharmaceutical goods

Mr. William Shelton (Lambeth, Streatham) asked what contribution to British overseas trade is made by the pharmaceutical industry.

'The value of exports of pharmaceutical goods in January to May 1974 was £112 million fob,' answered Mr. Deakins.

Exports of steel to EEC

Mr. Ian Mikardo (Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow) inquired about the volume of exports of steel to EEC countries before 1 July.

'The latest information available is for January-May when exports were 425,000 tonnes,' answered Mr. Shore.

Machine tool exports

'*What contribution to overseas trade is at present made by the British machine-tool industries?*' *asked Mr. Reginald Eyre (Birmingham, Hall Green).*

'The value of exports of machine tools in January to May 1974 was £38 million fob,' answered Mr. Deakins.

Annual inquiry into catering trades

Mr. David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked to know the purpose of the inquiry into the distributive and service trades for 1973 as it affected the catering trades; and to what size of business this inquiry is directed.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'The purpose of the annual inquiry into the catering trades is to collect information for inclusion in the capital expenditure and stocks estimates in the national income accounts. About 6,000 organisations were approached in the 1973 inquiry, including all the large organisations and a sample of the smaller ones.'

Delays at ports

Mr. Terry Walker (Kingswood) asked if the Department of Trade had any evidence of delays of goods for export at Great Britain's ports.

'I am aware of complaints from exporters of their goods being held up in ports,' said Mr. Deakins. 'In the main these are due to inadequacy of shipping space on certain long sea routes and to local shortages of containers. The British Overseas Trade Board are in touch with the Conferences concerned who are taking all steps immediately open to them to alleviate the situation.'

Aircraft routes

Mr. Neubert (Havering, Romford) asked what new guidelines were proposed for issue to the Civil Aviation Authority in connection with route licensing.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend is reviewing civil aviation policy and the issue of further guidance to the Civil Aviation Authority will be one of the matters for consideration in the light of the review.'

Aircraft noise

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked when the Secretary of State for Trade expected to complete his consultations with the manufacturing and operating industries on the quietening of aero-engines.

Mr. Shore replied: 'Aircraft manufacturers and operators have now provided full information about the noise reductions likely to be achieved by modifying the older types of jet aircraft. Important questions of cost and timing are involved and I cannot, at this stage, say when consultations with industry and other Departments will be completed, but they are being carried out as quickly as possible.'

Regional airports

Mr. Tim Renton (Mid-Sussex) and Mr. James Allason (Hemel Hempstead) asked the Secretary of State for Trade for a statement on his policy for the development of regional airports.

Mr. Shore said: 'It is my objective to encourage the greater use of regional airports in general. The Civil Aviation Authority are presently undertaking a series of studies of regional airports and I expect to receive their advice on these later in the year.'

Mr. Stephen Hastings (Mid-Bedfordshire) inquired about representations from the County Councils of East and West Sussex, Surrey, Hertfordshire and Essex on the Third London Airport at Maplin, and the consequences of its cancellation.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'These County Councils wrote and expressed their concern about the consequences for developments at existing airports should the Maplin airport project be cancelled. Their views on noise and urban development have been taken note of in the current review of the project.'

Mr. Andrew Bennett (Stockport, North) asked for a statement on the role that Ringway Airport should play in the long-term future of civil air traffic in north-west England.

'I expect to receive the recommendations of the Civil Aviation Authority on the Central England Airport Study, which included airports in the north-west, later in the year,' answered Mr. Clinton Davis. 'In considering the Authority's advice I shall take account of the future role of Manchester Airport.'

Questions about the present level of use of Stansted Airport and of its possible expansion and general future were asked by Mr. Peter Kirk (Saffron Walden) and Mr. John Biggs-Davison (Chigwell).

Mr. Clinton Davis replied that in the 12 months ended 31 May 1974, Stansted Airport handled 31,553 aircraft movements including 3,259 air transport movements, 205,994 passengers and 17,479 toms of cargo and mail.

Mr. Shore said that the future of the airport could be affected by the re-appraisal of the Maplin airport project on which he expected to make a statement shortly. (*See page 155.*)

Manston helicopter service

Mr. Leslie Huckfield (Nuneaton) asked for a statement on the termination of the commercial contract of the search and rescue helicopter service based at Manston.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The existing contract is due to terminate in September and, as announced on 3 June, the Department will not be going out to tender for a further civilian service because the Ministry of Defence are to re-establish a search and rescue unit at Manston. The civilian contractor has provided an efficient service but bearing in mind that the RAF service will be using two helicopters with a superior operational performance than the existing one I believe that the effectiveness of the unit will be enhanced.'

Milk subsidies

Mr. Harry Ewing (Stirling, Falkirk, Grangemouth) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection for a statement on the payment of subsidy on milk produced outside the areas of the milk marketing boards.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'In consultation with her Rt. Hon. Friends, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretary of State for Scotland, my Rt. Hon. Friend has prepared schemes under the powers contained in section 1(5) of the Prices Act, 1974 for the payment of a subsidy on milk produced in the Isles of Scilly and certain Scottish Islands not covered by existing arrangements. The subsidy will be paid from 1 August and will be at a rate of 2p per pint, the approximate equivalent of the subsidy on the mainland. The schemes will be administered by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland respectively. Copies of the schemes will be placed in the Library.

'It is estimated that the cost in 1974/75 of the scheme for the Isles of Scilly will be about £5,500 and for the Scottish Islands about £39,000. Estimates will be presented to the House in due course, and in the meantime it will be necessary to have recourse to the Contingencies Fund.

'Although Skye and Lewis and Harris fall within the area of the North of Scotland Milk Marketing Board, no producers in these Islands are registered with the Board. The Islands will therefore be included among those to benefit from the new arrangements announced today. However, since a scheme under the Prices Act may not be used as a basis for making payments in respect of milk produced within the area of a Milk Marketing Board, payment of subsidy in Skye and Lewis and Harris will be made under the authority of the Appropriation Act. Specific legislative authority will be sought as soon as possible. The estimated cost in the period to 31 March 1975 is £16,000.'

Court Line

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne (South Angus) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'Whether, in view of the fact that negotiations were proceeding between Court Line Ltd. and potential purchasers for the acquisition of the shipbuilding activities of that company as going concerns, he will set out in the Official Report the considerations which led him to conclude that time did not permit him to consult with the Industrial Development Advisory Board before agreeing in principle to acquire the assets of Court Shipbuilding Ltd. under his terms of Section 7 of the the Industry Act, as laid down in Section 9 of that Act.'

Mr. Benn replied: 'None of the negotiations in progress could have been completed in the short time available, which precluded even consultation with the Industrial Develop- Advisory Board.'

Mr. Neville Trotter asked on what date the Secretary of State for Industry, or representatives of his Department, first discussed with representatives of the TUC the action to be taken by his Department concerning Court Line.

'On 25 June 1974 after unsuccessful attempts to arrange a discussion the previous day,' answered Mr. Benn.

Company acquisitions in Europe

An estimate was requested by Mr. Nigel Spearing (Newham, South) of the number of firms sold to or taken over by companies in Europe to which production had or would be transferred, and the approximate number of employees thereby losing their jobs.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'The Department's analysis of acquisitions and mergers of industrial and commercial companies, based on reports in the financial press, shows that companies of other EEC countries acquired one UK company in 1972 and one in 1973. No such acquisitions were reported in the first quarter of 1974. Companies are acquired as going concerns and transfer of production and loss of employment need not arise.'

Steel: exports and re-imports

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East) asked for a statement of policy on the exporting of steel from the UK and its subsequent re-importation at higher prices; and also for the exports of steel in each year from 1970.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'I consider that this practice should be discouraged but have not seen any evidence to suggest that it is occurring to any significant extent, although I have offered to investigate any evidence Hon. Members may have about it.' He gave the following statistics.

UK exports of steel were as follows:	000 tonnes
1970	3,863
1971	4,706
1972	4,444
1973	4,026

Export of waste paper

Mr. John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling) asked if steps would be taken to reduce the export of waste paper from the UK.

'Prohibition of exports to other Member States of the EEC is contrary to Community law,' answered Mr. Meacher. 'I do not consider that the current temporary shortage of waste paper justifies the Government seeking a special derogation from this principle. Nor do I believe that the relatively marginal gain in waste paper that would accrue from an export ban warrants the risk of retaliation.'

Small firms

Mr. John Loveridge (Havering, Upminster) asked what action had been taken to promote investment in the smaller business sector of the economy.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The financial assistance authorised under the Industry Act 1972 continues to be available to small as well as large manufacturing firms in the assisted areas. We have also given considerable publicity, for example by a formal opening by Ministers, to the Small Firms Information Centres. These centres can put the small business in touch with advisers on the soundness or otherwise of investment proposals and sources of finance.'

Alfred Marks Bureaux Ltd.

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne inquired about financial assistance under the Industry Act being made available for Alfred Marks Bureaux Ltd.

Mr. Heffer replied: 'Financial assistance is being made available under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972. Grants may be offered for

office projects which transfer to the Assisted Areas and have a genuine choice of location between the Assisted Areas and the rest of the country. Details of these grants and other forms of assistance are set out in a handbook "Incentives for Industry" which has been widely distributed by my Department.' 7

Official questionnaires

Mr. David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked the Secretary of State for Industry: 'Whether he will make it his practice in future to make clear in all departmental questionnaires whether or not the return is compulsory.'

Mr. Meacher replied: 'The distinction between voluntary and compulsory statistical questionnaires is already made reasonably clear to recipients. All questionnaires from this Department which respondents are legally obliged to complete include the sentence "You are required under Section . . . of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947, to complete this form." Other questionnaires simply ask firms to complete and return the form. I am considering whether any further clarification is desirable.'

Textiles from Hong Kong

Mr. Peter Hordern (Horsham and Crawley) asked for a statement about the export of textiles from Hong Kong into the European Communities.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The European Community takes nearly 40 per cent of Hong Kong's textile exports. In Community discussions on access arrangements for textiles from the developing countries, including Hong Kong, the United Kingdom is seeking liberal terms which would have full regard to the objectives of the Multifibre Textile Arrangement and to the objectives of its renegotiation of the terms of United Kingdom membership of the EEC.'

UK textile industry

Mr. John Biffen (Oswestry) asked for an assessment of the likely impact on the United Kingdom cotton textile industry arising from the associate EEC status of Greece and Turkey; and to what extent the trade in textiles was covered by the current fundamental re-negotiation of EEC membership.

Mr. Shore said: 'My Department maintains a careful watch on the Mediterranean Associate Agreements, including their implications for the United Kingdom textile industry. If imports from Mediterranean Associate countries should cause disruption of domestic production the Agreements provide for safeguard measures to be taken. Trade in textiles is not a specific issue in the Government's renegotiation of our terms of EEC membership, but we do seek equitable GSP treatment for Hong Kong textile exports to the EEC nine.'

Ministerial visits

Mr. Neil MacFarlane (Sutton and Cheam) asked about the Secretary of State for Trade's plans to meet his opposite numbers in the Governments of the other member states of the European Community.

'I hope to see as many as possible of my opposite numbers in other Common Market countries when my other commitments permit,' said Mr. Shore.

Mr. Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford) asked when Mr. Shore would pay an official visit to Paris to discuss matters of common interest concerning trade policy.

He was told: 'I hope to visit Paris after the holiday period as part of a series of visits to my opposite numbers in other Community capitals.'

Mr. Shore was also asked, by Mrs. Renée Short (Wolverhampton, North-West), about visits to Comecon countries in the immediate future.

'I have received invitations to visit a number of these countries and am looking forward to doing so when my other commitments permit,' he replied.

Tuesday, 16 July

Private medical schemes in nationalised industries

Dr. Maurice Miller (East Kilbride) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, to give general directions to those nationalised industries which (1) promote private medical schemes among employees, and (2) make no charge to private medicine for the service provided whilst making a 2½ per cent charge to trade unionists for the service of deducting union dues, to cease this practice.

'I share my Hon. Friend's concern and am conveying the text of his question to the chairmen involved and will write to him when I have had their replies,' Mr. Benn answered.

Court Shipbuilders Ltd.

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne asked the Secretary of State for Industry, what steps he took to ascertain the price which the assets and goodwill of Court Shipbuilders Ltd. would command in the open market before he agreed in principle to acquire the equity of that company with public funds.

'Negotiations had to be conducted on a very short timescale,' answered Mr. Benn. 'I made use of the advice available to me within the Department, which took account of such factors as underlying net assets and the past results and future prospects of Court Shipbuilders.'

Triumph Motorcycles

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne referred to the fact that financial support from public funds in excess of £5 million for any single enterprise under the terms of Section 7 of the Industry Act is subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, and asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would make it his policy to take no steps to commit additional public funds in excess of £200,000 to Triumph Motorcycles without prior Parliamentary debate and approval, in view of the fact that this concern has already received £4.8 million under the terms of this legislation.

'No.' said Mr. Heffer. 'I do not regard the proposed Workers Co-operative at Meriden as part of the same project as that for which assistance was given to Norton Villiers Triumph Limited.'

Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973

Mr. R. C. Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen) asked when regulations would be issued under the Insurance Amendment Act 1973 to control the operation of property funds and bond operators.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'Section 47 of the Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973 provides powers to make Regulations limiting the types of property to which long term insurance policies can be linked in order to determine benefits, specifying how and by whom such properties shall be valued, and requiring information to be disclosed about the benefits. The first stage is to establish a list of types of property to be approved. I have already consulted widely on this aspect and hope to be able to make Regulations soon. Other related Regulations will follow as soon as practicable thereafter.'

Newsprint manufacture

Information was requested by Mr. Eric Moonman (Basildon) on the amounts of British newsprint manufacture for the years 1967 up to the latest available date.

Mr. Meacher gave the following figures for production in the United Kingdom:

		Thousand tonnes
1967		714.5
1968		735.3
1969		789.4
1970		756.9
1971		575.4
1972		467.5
1973		441.9
1974 January	29.8	
February	33.1	
March	40.3	
April	34.8	
May	29.4	
		167.4 (five months)

Mr. Moonman then asked what steps had been taken since 1 March 1974 to help to increase British newsprint manufacture to offset the current world shortage.

Mr. Meacher answered: 'There is no short-term means of increasing production when British mills are working at full capacity and overseas suppliers, who provide two-thirds of the UK consumption are also at full stretch and cannot provide more. There are some signs that the world supply situation may ease in the coming months, though it remains tight at present.'

Nickel prices

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to what extent she estimated that the 67 per cent increase in the volume of UK import of nickel tubes and pipes in the first four months of 1974 as compared with the first four months of 1973, and the 46 per cent increase in the volume of exports of these materials was due to an artificial inflation of trade in both directions caused by the Price Commission's control on domestic profit margins, to the detriment of the UK payments balance and to what extent the 300 per cent increase in the volume of imports of miscellaneous nickel manufacturers in the same period and the 215 per cent increase in the volume of exports of these materials over this period was due to the same reason.

'Fluctuations in trade patterns can occur for many reasons,' answered Mr. Maclennan. 'In my Rt. Hon. Friend's review of the Price Code she is considering whether such fluctuations in particular sectors are connected with the existence of price controls on the UK domestic market.'

Supermarket

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked how many food supermarkets have been opened in each of the last 10 years.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'Defining a food supermarket as a self-service grocery shop with selling space of at least 2,000 square feet, the estimated number of supermarkets in Great Britain in 1966 was 2,669. A comparable figure for 1971 from the Census of Distribu-

Parliament continued

tion will be available later this year. No official estimates are available for the intervening years.'

Wednesday, 17 July

UK trade deficit

Mr. Bruce-Gardyne wanted to know the UK trade deficit, seasonably adjusted, at an annual rate, in the latest available period of three months and for the immediately preceding period of three months.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'The visible trade deficit, seasonally adjusted and expressed as an annual rate, was £5,468 million in the second quarter of this year and £5,192 million in the first quarter.'

Materials prices

Mr. Robert Redmond (Bolton, West) asked for an up-to-date table showing the price index numbers of major basic materials imported into the United Kingdom for the year ended June 1973 and June 1974.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

Scottish steel works

Mr. Donald Stewart (Western Isles) inquired about proposals from the British Steel Corporation to close works in Scotland.

Mr. Meacher replied that Mr. Benn announced in the House on 23 May the procedure and the order for dealing with the British Steel Corporation's planned closures under the development strategy they agreed with the previous Government. 'These closures are meanwhile in suspense,' he said. 'The Corporation will submit their detailed proposals for Scotland for consideration when my review reaches the appropriate stage.'

Irlam

Mr. John Evans (Newton) asked what action would be taken to bring more jobs into Irlam in the next four years.

'We shall continue our efforts to attract new projects to Irlam,' answered Mr. MacKenzie. 'Negotiations are at present in hand with the British Steel Corporation about the building of a 25,000 sq. ft. advance factory on their Irlam site. We are also keeping in close touch with the Corporation about the redevelopment of the site.'

Price reductions

Mr. Silvester (Manchester, Withington) inquired how the reduction in prices in shops of 1 per cent, attributable to the cut in distributors gross percentage margins, was calculated.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'The calculation of the effect of the 10 per cent cut in gross percentage margins was based on a representative sample of distributors, whose profit margins are published in the Price Commission Report for the period 1 December-28 February after taking into account the 25 per cent net profit margin safeguard.'

Retail price index

Mr. Silvester asked for a description of how the reduction in the rise of the retail price index of 1½ per cent and of the retail food index of 4 per cent, mentioned in Mrs. William's Parliamentary answer of 8 July, was calculated.

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'The reductions in the rise of the Retail Price Index and the Retail Food Index have resulted primarily from the introduction of food subsidies and have been calculated as follows:

	Food index	Percentage savings RPI
Milk	2.59	0.65
Bread	0.84	0.21
Butter	0.48	0.12
Cheese	0.36	0.09
Total	4.27	1.07

Price index numbers of major basic materials imported into the United Kingdom

1970 = 100

	1972						1973					
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Iron ore	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	121.4	121.4	121.4
Tungsten ore	48.1	47.5	46.6	45.1	45.9	49.9	49.9	50.3	55.6	57.9	55.6	51.6
Non-ferrous base metals:												
Aluminium ingots†	86.0	86.0	86.0	87.6	89.9	89.9	89.9	89.9	89.9	89.9	89.9	91.4
Nickel†	100.7	100.5	114.4	117.7	117.7	117.7	117.7	119.9	116.2	114.2	113.8	111.6
Copper	71.7	72.4	73.6	72.6	72.5	73.6	80.3	86.5	103.5	108.3	103.9	114.8
Zinc†	124.5	125.0	125.0	125.0	126.2	135.2	135.2	135.2	141.9	148.5	148.5	155.2
Tin	99.9	100.0	101.7	102.6	102.9	103.8	105.2	108.3	113.6	112.5	112.3	115.1
Lead	98.1	95.9	97.8	97.8	99.5	103.8	106.3	110.3	119.0	122.9	123.5	130.5
Soya beans	110.9	111.3	116.0	120.3	127.8	129.1	131.0	137.8	150.8	144.3	153.4	186.0
Groundnut oil	106.1	106.3	108.5	108.3	109.6	117.8	120.2	121.9	121.0	117.9	123.4	125.7
Hides and skins	155.5	179.0	190.7	216.7	229.8	223.5	222.9	219.1	199.7	204.7	206.6	194.2
Textiles:												
Raw cotton	112.8	109.1	106.2	111.5	124.0	130.0	133.7	131.9	137.1	143.5	154.7	162.7
Raw wool	136.4	154.9	179.9	231.3	218.6	236.8	293.1	333.2	403.1	325.3	318.8	344.7
Jute	100.1	101.7	101.8	101.8	101.3	102.3	103.1	104.5	105.6	105.6	105.4	104.6
Timber:												
Softwood	111.3	114.2	116.1	116.3	119.5	120.9	129.3	133.3	148.0	159.5	173.9	185.0
Hardwood	122.0	124.5	127.7	133.4	136.0	138.1	144.2	156.8	163.7	174.5	185.9	196.8
Plywood	112.9	112.9	121.1	128.5	130.1	131.1	132.2	136.0	138.3	140.4	157.5	167.0
Natural Rubber	84.0	80.3	81.9	94.3	99.6	106.8	115.5	123.9	135.0	132.1	131.2	158.3
Woodpulp	105.4	105.4	105.4	107.5	109.5	109.7	115.0	111.9	111.7	111.2	109.2	109.1
Sulphur, crude	89.0	89.0	89.0	89.0	89.0	89.0	100.2	100.2	100.2	100.2	100.2	100.2

	1973						1974					
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May*	June*
Iron ore	121.4	121.4	121.4	121.4	121.4	121.4	121.4	121.4	121.4	156.6	156.6	156.6
Tungsten ore	51.1	54.2	56.9	58.8	62.8	66.4	67.2	70.0	76.0	87.7	130.5	131.7
Non-ferrous base metals:												
Aluminium ingots†	97.7	97.7	97.7	100.3	106.5	106.5	106.5	106.5	114.3	123.7	123.7	123.7
Nickel†	109.6	111.2	114.0	116.8	116.3	116.4	127.2	131.3	134.9	130.1	126.6	125.5
Copper	135.0	143.6	135.3	144.0	161.1	162.7	154.7	170.7	198.6	215.1	201.2	173.1
Zinc†	168.2	171.9	179.0	195.4	209.6	234.5	234.5	234.5	246.7	257.9	257.9	257.9
Tin	127.6	132.4	135.1	144.6	153.5	182.6	191.8	216.3	230.1	251.5	251.4	247.0
Lead	146.1	139.7	144.8	153.0	160.9	201.8	200.5	225.0	238.9	231.7	217.9	188.1
Soya beans	196.6	224.6	228.0	212.8	199.0	230.1	237.6	237.1	230.1	199.9	190.2	190.5
Groundnut oil	133.2	155.3	144.4	143.7	149.3	182.6	211.1	299.9	300.2	303.2	302.2	280.7
Hides and skins	196.9	204.4	198.3	199.2	195.2	186.2	205.6	203.6	192.5	186.5	181.7	178.0
Textiles:												
Raw cotton	204.8	246.6	288.2	287.7	269.9	289.8	326.6	294.3	260.7	246.4	225.4	214.8
Raw wool	331.4	343.7	336.2	319.5	301.4	337.6	329.0	306.7	289.7	273.2	261.8	260.1
Jute	103.2	101.3	102.4	103.4	104.1	104.7	105.4	106.1	108.4	110.5	114.0	118.2
Timber:												
Softwood	212.3	220.6	236.2	247.1	249.7	254.8	258.3	262.1	262.8	263.2	264.4	265.0
Hardwood	201.7	212.9	226.6	231.3	236.3	240.5	241.0	249.4	249.3	249.2	248.5	248.8
Plywood	178.5	183.9	193.9	200.0	205.5	217.0	225.4	228.5	229.5	233.0	234.3	234.3
Natural rubber	197.7	193.8	179.9	173.3	191.7	256.3	264.4	237.7	214.6	194.2	194.1	171.7
Woodpulp	135.4	135.1	138.5	137.9	135.7	136.9	163.0	161.3	160.5	161.6	163.7	162.5
Sulphur, crude	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	151.1	151.1	151.1	151.1	151.1	151.1

* Provisional.
† Based on producers' prices.

The rest of the saving on the RPI derives from other measures, particularly the 10 per cent cut of distributors gross percentage margins.'

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East) wanted to know the increase in the cost of living in each year since 1968.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The percentage monthly average increase year on year in the Retail Price Index since 1968 is as follows:

1968	4.7
1969	5.4
1970	6.4
1971	9.4
1972	7.1
1973	9.2

Oil pollution

Sir Bernard Braine (South-East Essex) inquired about the cause of the oil pollution of the Thames estuary and Canvey Island's beaches on 8/9 July.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The cause appears to have been an escape of oil through an open ballast valve in a tanker discharging at the oil terminal at Coryton. Oil on the beaches was cleared by the Canvey Island authorities and the Thames estuary by the Port of London Authority. The PLA are prosecuting the ship believed to have been responsible.'

Scottish airports

Mr. David Steel (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles) asked if departmental committee would be set up to study the possibility of creating a major Scottish International Airport.

Mr. Shore answered: 'In consultation with my Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland and with the Civil Aviation Authority and the British Airports Authority, I keep under continuing review the organisation of airports in Scotland.'

Thursday, 18 July

Compulsory use of pilots

Mr. Ovenden (Gravesend) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what action he proposed to take to implement the recommendation of the steering committee on pilotage concerning compulsory employment of pilots.

Mr. Clinton Davis pointed out that while recommendations in the report for fundamental changes were unanimous, the Government was not committed to implementing the recommendations. All interested parties have been asked to forward their views to the Department by the end of September to allow consideration to be given to Government policy and to the timing of any new legislation.

Chartered Consolidated and Sadia

Mr. Ovenden (Gravesend) inquired whether the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, had yet received the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the proposed merger of Chartered Consolidated Investments Ltd. and Sadia Ltd.

Mr. Williams answered that the report had been received on 9 July. The Commission had found that the proposed merger might not be expected to operate against the public interest, and that the report would be laid before Parliament, and published as soon as possible.

Mid-Northumberland advance factories

Mr. George Grant (Morpeth) wanted to know how many advance factories had been built in the Mid-Northumberland Employment Exchange area, and how many were scheduled to be built during the next two years.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that 20 had been approved in Mid-Northumberland since 1960. Of these 17 had been built, two were under construction and one would shortly be under construction.

Production of tights

Mr. Marcus Lipton (Lambeth, Central) asked whether, in view of the closure of factories producing tights in France, Germany and Italy owing to surplus production, the Secretary of State for Industry would seek, through the machinery of the EEC, for this surplus to be exported to the UK where there is a shortage.

Mr. Meacher declared that he had no reason to think that British production would be insufficient.

Central England Airport Study

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) made a request for copies of the Summary of the Central England Airport Study, prepared by the Civil Aviation Authority, to be made available in the Vote Office.

Mr. Clinton Davis pointed out that it was not normal practice for non-Government publications to be made available through the Vote Office. He had however arranged for a copy of the Study to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Skytrain service

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked what representations had been made to the American Government to obtain the necessary approval for the operation by Laker Airways of their Skytrain service following the approval of the company as a properly designated operation by the US Civil Aeronautics Board five months ago.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'Following designation of Laker Airways in February 1973, formal representations were made on four occasions in 1973 for a foreign air carrier permit to be isued by the US authorities. In March 1974 an administrative law judge recommended in favour of Laker's application and further approaches have since been made by HM Embassy in Washington and by his Department.'

Friday, 19 July

Metrication compensation

Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury) asked what compensation would be provided to shopkeepers having to change their equipment to the metric scale.

Mr. Williams pointed out that it had been the policy of all Governments since Government support for voluntary metrication was announced in 1965, that costs should lie where they fell. But expenditure incurred by a shopkeeper on the modification or replacement of equipment should be allowable against tax.

Retail prices

Mr. Anthony Stodart (Edinburgh, West) requested information on the retail prices in London of the following commodities at the latest convenient date: tea, tips, ¼ lb., lard 1 lb., cabbage, per lb. coffee, instant ½ lb., corn flakes 12 oz., apples, eating 1 lb., sugar, granulated 2 lb., marmalade 1 lb., peaches, tin 28 oz., milk, per pint, eggs, standard 12, beef: silverside 1 lb., frying steak 1 lb., steak mince 1 lb., lamb: double loin chops 1 lb., bread, sliced ham, cheese 1 lb., flour 3 lb., bacon, shoulder 1 lb., biscuits, sweet 1 lb., salmon, red 7½ oz., butter 1 lb., soup 28 oz., margarine, table 1 lb., potatoes 14 lb.

Mr. Maclennan provided the following table which shows average retail prices, as collected for the General Index of Retail Prices on 21 May, the latest date for which information is available. This information was not available separately for London.

Commodity	Average Retail Price
	p
Tea, per ¼ lb	
Higher price	12.0
Medium price	9.1
Lower	8.7
Lard, per lb.	17.5
Cabbage, per lb.	
Greens	10.1
Hearted	9.5
Coffee, instant, per 4 oz.	33.8
Apples, dessert, per lb	12.7
Sugar, granulated, per 2 lb.	10.3
Milk, ordinary, per pint	4.5
Eggs, standard, per doz.	35.0
Beef, per lb.	
Silverside (without bone),* home-killed	69.5
Silverside (without bone), imported, chilled	63.6
Rump sreak,* home-killed	93.8
Rump steak, imported, chilled	80.8
Lamb, per lb.	
Loin (with bone), home-killed	67.9
Loin (with bone), imported	50.8
Bread, white, 1½ lb. wrapped and sliced loaf	13.9
Cheese, Cheddar type, per lb.	36.5
Flour, self-raising, per 3 lb.	20.2
Bacon, collar,* per lb.	43.8
Salmon, canned red, per ¼ size	58.0
Butter, per lb.	
Home produced	23.6
New Zealand	21.8
Danish	24.6
Margarine, per lb.	
Standard quality (without added butter)	17.8
Lower priced	16.0
Potatoes, per lb.	
Old (white, loose)	2.5
Old (red, loose)	3.0
New (in season)	8.3

* Or Scottish equivalent.

Comparable information is not available for corn flakes, marmalade, tinned peaches, minced steak, sweet biscuits or soup.

Nation Life Insurance

Mr. William Molloy (Ealing, North) inquired what recent consultations had been held following the collapse of the Nation Life Insurance Co.

Mr. Shore declared that following the preliminary hearing on 3 July of the company's application for winding-up in order to safeguard the interests of its creditors, its affairs were now in the hands of the Court, with the Official Receiver appointed as Provisional Liquidator and Mr. G. A. Weiss of W. H. Cork Gulley and Co. as his Special Manager. The company's application for winding-up would be heard substantively by the Court on 29 July. If it was accepted by the Court, meetings of creditors and contributories would follow, after which the Court would consider the appointment of a Liquidator. It appeared that the company had substantial assets which it would be the duty of the Liquidator, when appointed, to apply for the benefit of creditors.

Parliament continued

Regional aid for Scotland

Mrs. Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) inquired how many applications had been received to date from Scotland for regional aid.

Mr. Heffer said that 15,173 applications for regional development grants under Part I of the Industry Act had been received in respect of investment in Scotland against which £47 million had been paid. Apart from assistance to Govan Shipbuilders 637 applications for Regional Selective Assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act had been received. Offers of assistance totalling £7.7 million in loans and £12 million in grants had been made. The estimated additional employment associated with these offers was 24,000.

Costs of reducing aircraft noise

Mr. Kenneth Warren (Hastings) asked what was the budgeted expenditure in 1974/75 for work on the reduction of aircraft noise, excluding sums provided for the RB 211 programme.

Mr. Meacher replied that budgeted expenditure by HMG for 1974/75 on programmes of general research on aircraft noise including engine and airframe aspects, together with a related examination of operational procedures, was expected to be about £1.7 million. In addition, a new noise test facility had recently been completed at the National Gas Turbine Establishment at a cost of approximately £2 million. HMG also expected to contribute about £0.8 million during 1974/75 towards the costs of programmes in industry aimed at demonstrating the technology which could be applied to future engines, including quieter versions of the M45H and RB 211 engines.

Concorde costs

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked for an estimate of the total costs for the Concorde project (a) at its commencement, (b) in 1964, (c) in 1970, (d) at 31 December 1973, together with adjusted figures in the first three cases in order to provide a real comparison with the figures at 31 December 1973.

Mr. Meacher said that not all of the information was available in precisely the form requested but the following details enabled a comparison to be made between the estimates given at various points in the programme. Estimated total development costs for Concorde, made at the date specified were as follows:

	Figures quoted (historic prices for previous expenditure, current prices for forecasts of future expenditure) £m.	Adjusted to constant 1962 prices £m.
Commencement	150-170	150-170
1964	275	250
1970 (i) January	730	478
(ii) October	825	523
31 December 1973	1,065	575

No comparable estimates were made at earlier stages either of the total production costs or of production profits or losses.

Western Jets Ltd.

Mr. Phillip Whitehead (Derby, North) requested information about the bankruptcy of the charter firm Western Jets Ltd. and the numbers of British holiday-makers estimated to have lost pre-paid flights in consequence.

Mr. Deakins stated that Western Jet was the trading name of Columbia Air Charter and Tour Brokers Ltd. He was not aware of the appointment of a receiver or liquidator of this company. The Civil Aviation Authority, which refused to renew the company's Air Travel Organiser's Licence for this year, was investigating reports that it had been trading since 31 March without a licence. No estimate was at present available of the numbers of intending passengers that might have been affected.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors, and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Pollution from ships

Mr. John Cordle (Bournemouth, East) asked what progress had been made in consultations with representatives of the shipping industry and other interested parties regarding the introduction of legislation to implement the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 and whether legislation to implement that convention would now be introduced.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied that consultations were proceeding. Among the most difficult of the problems were those requirements of the 1973 Convention which called for the provision, both on ships and on land of equipment and facilities which had not yet been developed. Until those problems had been solved legislation to implement the Convention could not be enforced, and he was not yet ready to announce its introduction.

Exports of fertilisers

Mr. Clement Freud (Isle of Ely) asked which fertilisers have been exported in what quantities for each of the last 12 available months.

Mr. Shore gave the following information:

tonnes

	1973 June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	1974 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Crude fertilisers	42	25	6	208	64	62	167	131	397	236	85	383
Manufactured fertilisers												
Nitrogenous	6,537	1,307	7,978	5,570	6,539	10,415	6,838	12,221	13,285	19,385	6,748	11,092
Phosphatic	7,846	7,689	7,410	4,941	6,427	4,471	4,402	7,149	7,381	6,778	19,855	1,573
Potassic	260	91	46	431	344	75	18	103	101	90	18	100
Other	25,743	15,094	3,266	11,922	21,418	63,000	37,882	49,095	54,234	57,191	55,095	52,515

Monthly Digest of Statistics

Prepared by the Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the Statistics Division of Government Departments, this digest is designed to provide industrialists and business executives with invaluable statistics relating to the economic situation in the United Kingdom. It contains a regular series of detailed statistics on a wide range of subjects which include the following: *Labour, Fuel and Power, External Trade, Wages and Prices, Industrial Production, Industrial Materials, Finance.*

Price 63p (*by post* 72½p). Annual Subscription £8.60 including postage, and a copy of the Definitions of items and units employed in the Digest.

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH), Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

Government Sales

31 July 1974 Miscellaneous Sales

Location: The Hilltop Motor Hotel, London Road, Carlisle.

Auctioneers: Harrison & Hetherington Ltd., (Dept. L), Botchergate, Carlisle, CA1 1SE. Tel: 0228 26292.

97 motor vehicles including Morris ambulances, Morris 1000 vans, Morris and BMC Mini saloons, Ford Anglia saloons, Austin vans, Ford D550 truck with drop sides, Land Rovers, mini-buses, Massey Ferguson tractors, AEC Mammoth Major cargo trucks, Leyland-Scammell tanker, Leyland Hippo tankers, fork lift trucks, Scammell type trailers, etc. Bending, sanding and grinding-machines, guillotines, electric saws and drills, vices, transformers, receivers, control units, test meters, power units, inductors, capacitors, resistors, amplifiers, junction boxes, sockets, switches, electronic valves. Instruments including stroboscopes, verniers, magnets, cameras, pocket and stop watches, clocks, etc., asbestos and steel garages, aluminium tubing and sheets, service clothing, boots and shoes and many other items of miscellaneous stores.

7 August 1974 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: The City Auction Galleries, Kinterbury House, St. Andrew's Cross, Plymouth.

Auctioneers: Woolland Son & Manico, (Dept. L), Kinterbury House, St. Andrew's Cross, Plymouth, PL1 2DQ. Tel: 0752 69292.

The lots include greatcoats, raincoats, jackets, trousers, blouses, jerseys, underwear, shirts, overalls, pillow slips, sleeping bags, kit bags, suitcases, blankets, sheets, mattress covers, foam mattresses, ankle boots and knee boots, shoes, hammocks, counterpanes and bedspreads, ground sheets, tentage and mixed rags. Wooden and steel furnishings including desks, tables, chairs, writing tables, filing cabinets, camp beds, bedsteads, lockers, wardrobes, dressing chests, sideboards and safes. Kitchen china and glassware, carpets, tea urns, watches, clocks, binoculars, telescopes, barometers, torches, oscilloscopes, photographic equipment, profectors, telephone sets, kettles, desk lamps, speakers, lights, sewing machines, vacuum cleaners and sweepers, toasters, heaters, primus stoves, test meters and test sets, gauges, lamps, lanterns, butchers chopping blocks, bread and bacon slicing machines, portable drills, scrap batteries and tyres, electric cable, chain blocks and tackles, ball, roller and taper bearings, hoses, paint, cycles, petrol engines, fuel tankers, Ford Cortina estate car, Austin van and Morris Minor.

Catalogues for the above sales, which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc. are available from the relevant auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale price, 10p (postal orders only).

Department of the Environment

6 August 1974

Location: Department of the Environment, Supplies Division Stores, India Pavilion, Exhibition Grounds, Wembley, Middlesex (Tel: 01-903 2608)

Auctioneers: Messrs. Fuller, Horsey, Sons and Cassell, 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (Tel: 01-248 7954)

Office and miscellaneous furniture, engineering, electrical, canteen, domestic and other equipment, etc.

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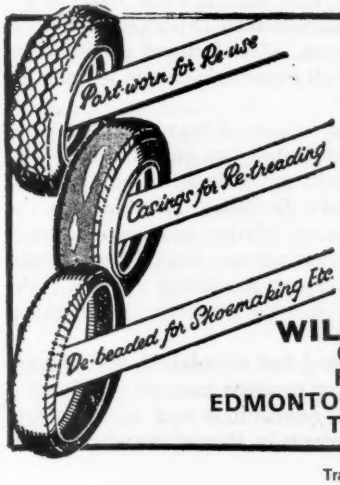
Bankruptcy records for England and Wales

Details of bankruptcies in England and Wales are maintained in a public search room at Room 901, Thomas More Building, Royal Court of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY.

Searches can be made personally or by an agent and a fee of 25p in respect of each bankruptcy inquiry is payable at the time.



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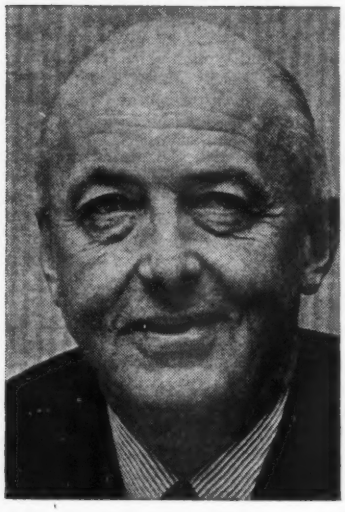
BOTB British Overseas Trade Board

Last year's exports up 25 per cent in value says BOTB Annual Report



Lord Thorneycroft, BOTB Chairman, in his foreword writes:
'In some ways it has been a frustrating year . . . Yet, management and men responded well to the challenge of short-time working. The trade figures have proved beyond doubt that priority was given to export orders and that the dismal picture of British industry painted abroad at that time in no way reflected the true facts although it did some harm to our chances of securing new business.'

During 1973, the Report states, the value of our exports was £11,435 million on a balance of payments basis, 25 per cent higher than in 1972. This represented a marked recovery from the slow rate of growth of 4 per cent in the previous year. Export prices rose by 13 per cent and there was a growth of 12 per cent in the volume of export shipments, a rate about twice the annual average of the previous five years. The strong growth in export volume reflected a recovery in the volume of world trade in manufactured goods which is estimated to have increased by 13-14 per cent compared with 8 per cent in 1972. The early months of 1974 have seen an acceleration in the rate of increase in the value of exports: in the first five months they were already 18 per cent higher than the average in the second half of 1973.

In 1973 deliveries to Western Europe, which accounted for just over half our exports, grew in value by 34 per cent, an increase spread amongst virtually all countries. Deliveries to North America were 21 per cent higher, while those to the sterling area outside Europe increased by 18 per cent and to the rest of the world by 28 per cent. Manufactured goods, which accounted for 84 per cent of all exports, increased in value by 27 per cent in 1973.

Government expenditure in support of the marketing operations of British exporters amounted last year to some £35 million, and the Report details the main items administered principally under the Board's direction. They include the collection and dissemination of Market intelligence; trade fairs and other promotional events abroad; inward and outward trade missions; help with export marketing research; the encouragement of major project by consortia; communications and publicity.

By the end of 1973 the Board had established, with the aid of HM Missions in our major overseas markets and in consultations with many trade associations and a number of individual firms, a list of products in 19 markets where it was believed the best return might be obtained from promotional activity in support of British industry. The markets of Western Europe, North America, Japan, South Africa and Australia, together with especially important developing countries, emerged as those where Britain's traders expect to make their major effort and where they are likely to make most demands on the Board's promotional services.

This approach has been welcomed by industry and the Board is taking steps to update the information and to widen the range and depth of discussion to involve many more individual firms. 'The Board hopes thereby'; the Report suggests, 'to obtain an even better indication of where industry will be making its major marketing effort. This will enable the Board to assess the likely demand on its services and to plan the development of its own promotional effort in support of industry.'

Overseas projects, trade promotions and missions

The Overseas Projects Group of the British Overseas Trade Board has continued during the past year to develop its policy of selectivity by concentrating its resources on a limited number of important projects in 'good' markets in sectors which have potential for future business. The Group's main objective is to maximise the cash flow to the United Kingdom. The Overseas Projects Fund which enables the Group to give assistance towards the cost of firm's precontractual activities in pursuing project business is being increasingly used to achieve this objective.

Last year the Board supported a record number of firms in promotions overseas – 6,521 companies participated in 322 fairs and exhibitions, 25 per cent more than in the previous year. There was also an increase in the number of outward trade missions, firms participating and countries visited, and there were more store promotions and Shopping Weeks. In addition to the regular participation in established trade fairs through the Joint Venture and British Pavilion Schemes, several important all-British exhibitions were organised, notably in Bahrain, Dubai and Bilbao. Others are planned. The difficulties faced by industry at the end of 1973 and the beginning of 1974, the Report suggests, have had little perceptible effect on the level of trade fair and outward mission activity.

Some 627 overseas buyers of capital and consumer goods from over 100 countries were brought to Britain last year under the Board's Inward Mission Scheme – an increase of over 50 per cent on the previous year. In addition more industrial tours were carried out by overseas Commercial Officers, and increasing emphasis is being placed by the Overseas Visitors Bureau on tours concentrated on a particular product or range of products for which there is a potential export market.

The Export Marketing Research Scheme, which was introduced in July 1969, is intended to encourage and help firms and trade associations (particularly those new to exporting and/or export marketing research) to undertake research in export markets as a key part of their overseas marketing efforts. During the 1973/74 financial year, the Report records

211 projects were approved, involving expenditure by the Board of some £300,000. The total number of firms that have so far benefited from the Scheme is of the order of 7,000 (including trade association members and firms supplied with BOTB sponsored reports).

The General Export Services Branch and the Export Section staff of the Regional Offices provide channels for continuous exchanges with industry through which the Board's services are publicised and directed to the needs of exporters. For the second year running the Board's Report records a substantially increased demand by industry on the Board's services. In the course of the Board's special programme of consultation with industry on markets and products, GESB and the Regional Offices of the Department of Industry are planning discussions with 70 trade associations and 1,200 exporting firms.

During the past year the European Components Service of the Board has continued operations in Germany, Scandinavia, the Netherlands and France, and is being extended to Belgium. Inquiries in this period, with an estimated value of £20 million, have been passed to 1,600 British firms, and of 954 responses 201 were positive quotations. The total value of orders known to have been placed during the past year with help from ECS is just over £6 million, bringing the cumulative total since the Service began active operations seven years ago to £18 million.

Britain's exports to Japan rose by 60 per cent during 1973 to a record £273 million, and in the first quarter of 1974 were a further 38 per cent up on the same period of 1973. 'But', the Report states, 'the efforts of the Exports to Japan Unit to stimulate interest in the market among British firms have by no means slackened and have perhaps become even more vital now that the oil crisis has brought into question the growth of Japan as a major export market. Export observers believe that Japan will soon re-establish its pattern of high growth compared with other developed economies.

'Prospects for British goods in the medium term remain excellent' the Report continues, 'and our visible exports could on present form double in the next four years or so; invisible exports in the fields of transport, insurance, banking and investment income are strong and should pay even more handsome dividends in future years.'

Since the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo opened in September 1973 with its unique range of services to British exporters, nine highly successful targeted exhibitions have been mounted with BOTB assistance, including market research, pre-event publicity, assisted travel and freight. Product areas included marine equipment, furniture, metrology and tooling, welding equipment, medical equipment, food and drink, and avionics. British industry has responded to the Centre with enthusiasm, the Report suggests, and exhibition themes have already been fixed for 1975.

The Board has continued throughout the year to pay special attention to the influence of the public sector on Britain's returns from international trade and it is engaged in a dialogue with the nationalised industries. Its interests includes these industries' contribution by way of direct export of their own products and technology, but extends also to the effects of their buying and design policies on their own suppliers' ability to export. Similarly under consideration is the contribution to be made from harnessing the nationalised industries' experience and technical skill to consultancy overseas, which itself earns foreign exchange and may lead to contracts for British manufacturers.

The Annual Report comments on the Working Group which was set up by Dr. I. Maddock, Chief Scientist of the then Department of Trade and Industry, at the invitation of the Board, to consider schemes for joint Government and industry action to promote the export of a small number of advanced and medium technology products expected to achieve export growth in the late 1970s. From a review of the relevant fields of industry and technology a preliminary selection was made of a number of product areas which appeared to meet the criteria in regard to technological content, British capability and market prospects. A detailed in-depth study was carried out in each of these areas and recommendations were made as to the action which the Working Group thought should be taken to secure the maximum benefit from the likely opportunities. In addition to these recommendations which related to particular product areas the Group made a number of recommendations of more general application, and the Board is now studying their Report.

During the past year the Board has given much thought to the role which its Area Advisory Groups might most usefully and profitably play in trade promotion and in assisting the Board generally with its work. 'The Board believes', the Report states, 'that the Area Advisory Groups are well equipped to carry out the following functions:

1 to study economic and commercial developments in their own territories;
2 to draw attention to new developments and trends which might improve Britain's competitive position or lead to new trading opportunities;
3 to make proposals for programmes of action to seize such opportunities;
4 to undertake, in consultation with the Board, specific promotional activities such as the reception of inward missions and entertaining important commercial visitors from their territories and also to propose such visits;
5 to support the Board in drawing industry's attention to export opportunities in their territories through direct contacts, through speaking engagements in the UK, the organisation of marketing seminars and by being available to offer guidance to British exporters on tackling the markets within their field of responsibility;
6 help liaison with British Chambers of Commerce and similar associations at home and in their territories;
7 to report regularly to the Board on their plans and activities.'

Looking ahead, the Report states that the Board will continue to seek means of relating its services even more closely to the needs of industry. Through its contacts with industry and from market information which it obtains principally from HM Diplomatic Missions abroad it will use its position within the machinery of Government to ensure that the overseas trading dimension is fully taken in the Government dialogue with industry.

'The wake of the energy crisis' the Report continues, 'will leave an uncertain situation for some time, and the Board must remain flexible in the deployment of its resources. There can be little doubt that the developed markets will continue to provide our major areas of opportunity. We shall, as we have done already, bring to the attention of British exporters the special opportunities which the energy crisis has created in the oil-producing markets. We must similarly ensure that British traders are fully informed of opportunities as they develop in other areas. The establishment of a commercial department in the newly opened Embassy in East Berlin illustrates such a development. 'In short', the Report concludes, 'we shall continue to combine selectivity which concentrates the impact of limited resources with a flexibility to complement the skill of traders who can successfully exploit opportunities wherever they arise.'

Report 1974 (British Overseas Trade Board)
is available free of charge from Publicity Unit, BOTB, 1 Victoria Street, SW1H 0ET.

Export Business

Largest order ever from Mexico–steelworks for Monclova

What is believed to be the largest order ever secured by Britain from Mexico has been won by Davy Ashmore International Ltd., of Stockton-on-Tees. It has been placed by the country's largest steel company, Altos Hornos de Mexico SA, for a new £45 million iron-making, steelmaking and casting plant on a site alongside the company's existing works at Monclova, in the State of Coahuila.

The contract was won in competition with firms from Japan, France, Italy, the United States and Germany; Germany is to provide some of the component machinery. To facilitate the contract a loan to Mexico of up to £53 million has been arranged by Brandts Ltd. and this loan has been guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. The loan, which is repayable over 12 years from commissioning, will cover contingent and additional costs, such as shipping.

Davy Ashmore International has total responsibility for the design, supply and construction of the complete plant, which is due to come into operation by July 1976. Initially, the plant will produce 750,000 tons a year, raising the total steel production at Monclova to 3,750,000 tons. There is provision in the design for considerable future expansion of both iron- and steel-making facilities.

The work will involve the shipping of about 36,000 tons of equipment and materials from Britain to Mexico.

At a press conference to announce the successful negotiation of the contract, Lord Beswick, Minister of State, Department of Industry, said that it was a practical expression of the strong ties which already existed between Britain and Mexico.

Jose Antonio Padilla Segura, Director General of Altos Hornos de Mexico, commented that the decision to build the new works was a further step in the fulfilment of his country's intention to undertake significant industrial expansion. Mexico wanted to develop further the commercial links which already existed with Britain, and he thought that there was considerable potential in Mexico for British companies. There was a particular opportunity in the development of joint investment companies in co-operation with Mexican enterprises.

To commemorate the signing of the £45 million steelworks contract placed with Davy Ashmore International Ltd. by the Mexican steel company Altos Hornos de Mexico SA, the director general of the Mexican steel company, Jose Antonio Padilla Segura, was presented with a specially bound copy of the contract. He is shown here (left) examining the volume in the presence of (l to r): Lord Beswick, Minister of State for Industry; John W. Buckley, chairman of Davy International; Hugo Margain, Mexican Ambassador in London; and Arthur N. Whiting, chairman and chief executive of Davy Ashmore International.

New market for British cranes

Algeria, formerly a traditional buyer of French equipment, has awarded its largest ever contract for electrically-operated dock-side cranes to a British engineering group. The contract, worth £1.5 million in direct exports, has gone to Stothert & Pitt Ltd. of Bath and is the first to be placed for such cranes since Algeria achieved independence in 1962, it is reported.

The contract embraces technical assistance by Stothert & Pitt in Algeria and training of Algerians in the UK. Stothert & Pitt will ship two complete cranes plus mechanical and electrical components for a further 21. The steelwork for the latter is to be fabricated in Algeria to Stothert & Pitt metric designs by the State-owned heavy engineering organisation Société Nationale de Constructions Métalliques.

The 10 tonnes cranes will be installed in Algiers, Oran and three other ports.

The Algerian state stevedoring company, Société Nationale de Manutention at the same time negotiated a contract for the renovation of 27 Stothert & Pitt cranes installed in Algerian ports more than 20 years ago.

Plessey wins £½ million contract

A major overseas order has been won by Plessey Telecommunications. The contract is for the supply and installation of equipment for the Post and Telecommunications Corporation of the Libyan Arab Republic.

The order, valued at more than £525,000, is for two Plessey 4660 computer-based telex exchanges and follows a Libyan contract for two Plessey 5005 Crossbar telephone exchanges. The combined value of the two contracts is almost £2 million.

The two 4660 exchanges, to be installed in Tripoli and Benghazi, are identical in design to the systems being supplied by Plessey under contract to the British Post Office for installation at St. Botolph's international gateway public telex exchange in London.

The system will interconnect telex machines having either Latin or Arabic characters and ensures that service messages are automatically sent in the appropriate characters.

The Libyan PTC attaches the greatest importance to the training of its staff: some of its engineers and technicians are already in residence at Plessey's training school at Beeston, Notts.

BOTB News

Bigger and better prospects for Anglo-Japanese co-operation

'During the past 25 years my company has been involved in some 50 joint projects with various Japanese companies. We believe there are even bigger and better opportunities ahead for our mutual benefit' said Mr. E. H. Curtis, project manager of Humphreys and Glasgow Ltd., speaking at an open meeting of the Japan-British Trade Group on 18 July.

Emphasising the scope for Anglo-Japanese co-operation, Edmund de Rothschild, chairman of the meeting, said 'I know of over 40 Anglo-Japanese industrial projects which are at present under way. These include petrochemical plants, power stations, raw material extraction and manufacturing enterprises – to give just a few examples. In the final report submitted by Arthur Wright following his mission to Japan in March he said "The present state of the Japanese economy, coupled with its tremendous need for oil (and raw materials) and the goodwill shown . . . to us . . . justifies the maximum possible effort being made both by British industry and Government alike (and this also applies on the Japanese side)'."

Mr. Robert Fell, a member of the British Overseas Trade Board and Secretary of the Exports Credits Guarantee Department, said that Japanese companies were now actively seeking European partners to co-operate in third market projects. Mr. Fell stressed that the scale of major projects in the future would make multi-national involvement necessary to spread investment costs and capital risks.

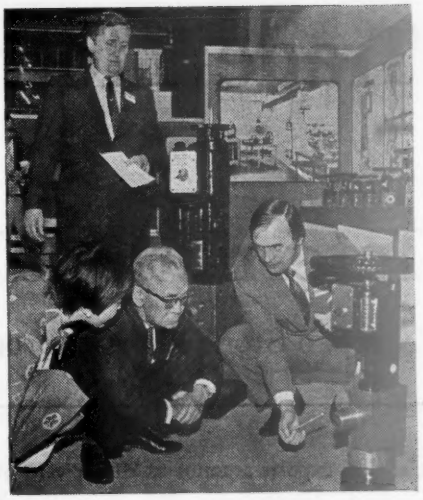
Mr. Fukawa of Mitsui and Co., spoke about UK-Japan joint ventures in development projects, and emphasised that we must learn to regard competitors also as potential partners in the international marketplace of engineering projects. He added that some UK Japan joint ventures in large scale development projects are already operating successfully.

Arthur Wright of the General Electric Co., who recently led a mission to Japan from the Council of British Manufacturers of Petroleum Equipment, revealed that CBMPE were arranging a series of selling missions to exploit the many opportunities which existed throughout the world for British industry to co-operate with the Japanese. Mr. Wright warned that 'British industry must act quickly to secure this business in view of Western European competition.'

Robin Fox of Kleinwort Benson and Mr. E. Matsumoto of the Bank of Tokyo talked about methods of financing for joint projects overseas.

Over 140 representatives from British and Japanese companies attended the meeting at the CBI which was arranged by the Japan-British Trade Group.

The Japan-British Trade Group was set up in February 1974 as a forum for British and Japanese firms to discuss trading interests between the two countries. Its membership includes representatives of the British Overseas Trade Board, the Embassy of Japan, the Japan Trade Centre, the London Chamber of Commerce, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of British Industry.



At the opening reception of the Pipes and Pipeline Equipment Exhibition held at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo from 2-6 July Mr. Barry Parker of British Engines Ltd. discusses the technology of their latest stop valve with Professor Keikichi Tanaka of Sophia University, President of the Pipeline Technology Research Association, and an influential figure in the mechanical engineering world in Japan. With the support of the British Overseas Trade Board 11 British companies, sponsored by the Engineering Industries Association took part in this Exhibition and were unanimously delighted with the interest shown and orders taken from Japanese customers.

Visits by British Overseas Commercial Officers

The following Overseas Commercial Officers are expected to be in this country shortly, when they will be available for discussions.

Bangladesh
W. D. Townsend, Third Secretary (Commercial) in Dacca since September 1973.
Available: November.

Saudi Arabia
T. Quinlan, First Secretary (Commercial) in Jedda since June 1972.
Available: November.

Senegal
C. Dyer, Second Secretary (Commercial) in Dakar since July 1973.
Available: September.

British firms and organisations, other than those in Northern Ireland and in the areas covered by the Department of Trade offices for the Eastern Region and the London and South Eastern Region, who wish to meet these officers to discuss specific export problems are asked to write for appointment to the appropriate Department of Trade Regional Director (Exports) stating the nature of the problem and commodities involved. Those firms and organisations in the London-based Regions mentioned above (together with those in other Regions who would prefer, or who would be prepared if necessary to meet the officers for an interview in London) should write to Tours Section, Department of Trade, Room G60, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Firms and organisations who wish to meet these officers in Northern Ireland should contact the Export Branch of the Department of Commerce, Belfast.

Because Commercial Officers often have only limited time at their disposal it may not always be possible to fit everyone in. Where it is possible, firms are reminded that the Export Services and Promotion Division of the Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, who are in close touch with all Overseas Commercial Officers can very often supply advice, or the information that applicants hoped to obtain at the interview. Outside London the Regional Offices of the Department of Trade or, in Northern Ireland, the Ministry of Commerce, Belfast, can also help.

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, W.C.1.

Trade Information

International aspects of metrication

Norman Stone looks at progress overseas

Britain's exports amount to 20 per cent of the gross national product. Imports of food, materials and manufactured products are substantial. This two-way trade is Britain's lifeline. And that in essence is the major reason for Britain's metric change.

Well over half of this trade is with established metric countries. They are not only in Europe. India and Japan are metric, virtually every country in South America and in South East Asia is metric, and many countries in Africa are metric. Almost 30 per cent of our trade is with countries which are going metric – countries like Australia, Canada, Nigeria and Singapore. These countries look for goods designed and built in metric, to metric standards, because that is the language of measurement they understand. Naturally their exports are in metric. Some of these countries have legislation forbidding the import of non-metric goods and products. Eleven per cent of our trade is with America, where many major firms have already announced that new designs are metric. Less than 1 per cent of our trade is with the non-metric countries – Brunei, Burma, Liberia and the two Yemens. In a world which is predominantly metric it is less and less economic to manufacture specially for the few remaining imperial countries.

Just as industries within a country change to metric at varying rates so do the countries. But across the world progress is rapid.

Australia

Australia decided to make the metric change in 1970, nearly five years after Britain. Nevertheless they expect to be a predominantly metric country by 1976. Customs and excise tariff rates and trade statistics are metric. Freight rates changed to metric in July 1973 and postal rates in October 1973. Road speed limits changed to metric on 1 July this year.

Many products, including wool, meat, grain, some fruits and vegetables, tobacco, cotton and sugar, are being marketed in metric. Australian farming will soon be operating in metric. Many industrial materials are metric. The Government expects that 64 per cent of construction expenditure will be on metric projects in 1974/75. Consumer goods retailed in metric packs include sugar, rice, soaps, detergents, tobacco, beer, soft drinks, fruit juices, wine, poultry and pharmaceuticals. Textiles, including carpets, are marked and invoiced wholesale entirely in metric units. Piece goods are sold by the metre. Many clothing manufacturers are already producing in metric sizes. Retailing of meat, fish and greengroceries in metric is planned to take place in 1974/75. Most sports in Australia are already played to metric rules and horseracing, trotting and greyhound racing are entirely metric.

Canada

Metrication is already approaching completion in the health and welfare sector. By 1975 progress is expected in a number of sectors including food, beverages and meteorology. Implementation should increase rapidly in 1976 and is expected to be at its peak in 1977 and 1978.

Transport ministers of all the provinces have accepted a plan produced by the Road Transportation Committee of Canada. The programme, which began in January 1974, aims to complete the metrication of Canada's highway systems by the end of 1979. Speed limit signs from coast to coast will be changed to metric over a period of one month in September 1977.

East African Community

Retail trade in all three member countries of the East African Community is now predominantly metric. A wide range of foodstuffs is required to be sold if pre-packed in prescribed metric quantities. Imported goods must comply with these regulations.

The customs tariff, trade statistics, postal services and meteorological services are metric. All operations of the East African Harbours Corporation, including cargo handling, wharfage and quay occupancy charges, are metric; movements of freight are required to be declared in metric. The freight tariff of the East African Railways Corporation uses metric weights and the operations of the railway repairyards are progressively being changed to metric. New rolling stock is designed and constructed to metric specifications. The commercial operations of the East African Airways Corporation are metric. All the agricultural marketing authorities, including those for dairy products, coffee, meat, sisal, tea and wheat, operate in metric units and basic farm supplies such as fertilizers, seeds and feeding stuffs are delivered in metric quantities.

Republic of Ireland

Most sectors of Irish manufacturing industry are well on target to complete the changeover by the end of 1975.

On 1 February 1974 an Order under the Merchandise Marks Act makes it compulsory to mark in metric terms the quantity of contents of many pre-packed goods.

New Zealand

Considerable progress was made early in 1973 and 1974. Agriculture is predominantly metric: bulk fertilizers are bought by the tonne, milk is sold wholesale by the litre, meat processing charges are based on the metric weight of animals and most wholesaling of meat is metric. Grain, seeds and other farm produce are also changing over to metric marketing.

Milk and cream are retailed in metric, and metric packs of butter are now on sale. Retail sale of meat and fish in metric units started in February 1974. Metric packs of other goods are appearing in the shops. Retail sales of textiles and clothing in metric began with the 1974 spring fashions. The change to

THE METRIC WORLD

At present, 140 countries are metric or in the process of changing over to the metric system. In some metric countries limited use is made of domestic systems of weights and measures or, where there is extensive trade with the UK or USA, of the imperial system.

More than 99% of the world's people live in countries that are metric already or are going metric.
Metric
Going metric
Less than 1% non-metric
United Kingdom Exports – 1973
63·3% to metric countries
36·2% to countries changing to metric
0·5% to non-metric countries
United Kingdom Imports – 1973
66·7% from metric countries
33·1% from countries changing to metric
0·2% from non-metric countries

Metric

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Arab Republic of Egypt, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China (People's Republic), Colombia, Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Denmark, Dominican Republic, East Germany, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, Formosa, France, Gabon, Germany (Federal Republic), Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malagasy Republic, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolian People's Republic, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, USSR, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Zaire

Going Metric

Australia, The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bermuda*, Botswana, Canada, Cyprus, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Gibraltar*, Guyana, Hong Kong*, Ireland (Republic), Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives (Republic), Malta G C, Mauritius, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Western Samoa, Zambia

* Dependent territories of the UK.

retailing petrol by the litre, area by area, is well on the way to completion. Litre beer jugs are gradually replacing 36 oz. jugs throughout the country. Horseracing and trotting have changed to metric.

Most shipping freight rates from New Zealand are based on metric weights. On 1 April 1974 harbour boards adopted metric tariffs and road and rail transport changed to scales of charges based on metric weights and distances. Road distance signs and advisory speed signs on curves are becoming predominantly metric. All land surveying is now metric, as are new land titles. Progress is being made in industrial materials, in building and construction and in engineering and this will continue into 1975. The substantial completion of the programme by 1976 is confidently expected.

Nigeria

The changeover is going ahead steadily on the basis of the general programme which the Nigerian Government announced in December 1972. The programme aims at 70 per cent completion in both public and private sectors by the end of 1975 and total metrication of the economy by the end of 1977.

The import tariff and the Nigerian Posts and Telegraphs charges are metric. All standards produced by the Nigerian Standards Organisation are metric. At least 50 per cent of Nigerian industry has already changed to metric. Since 1 January 1974 all imported machinery and equipment has been required to be calibrated solely in metric. The oil industry has completed the change. Standard metric sizes of packaged goods have been established and supermarkets and commercial houses are in the process of changing.

Pakistan

The Government decided to change to the metric system in 1972 and a phased programme began on 1 July 1974 with Pakistan International Airlines and the scientific laboratories of the Federal Government switching to metric.

South Africa

From the point of view of the British exporter South Africa is now virtually a metric market. The major industries have changed to metric. Transport and postal services all use metric freight rates and the customs tariff is wholly metric. All public Acts, ordnances and regulations now use metric exclusively.

Trade in non-metric units has been illegal since 1 January 1973, except when specially authorised. All pre-packed articles and all commodities which are sold by units of length, volume or area are metric. The only part of retail trade in which the use of imperial units is still, exceptionally, authorised is the sale of unpacked goods by weight in localities where it has not yet been practicable to complete the conversion of weighing machines. About 80 per cent of machines which were in use in 1970 have now been converted and all new machines acquired since are metric.

Only tidying-up operations remain to be completed. For reasons of economy, road signs both for speed and for distances are being replaced gradually. The troy ounce is still being used for precious metals and the carat for precious stones pending international agreement on new units.

United States of America

Despite the recent rejection on procedural grounds of a metrication Bill in the House of Representatives, the issue under discussion in the United States is not whether to go metric. There is a very wide measure of agreement on the need to change. The discussion is about the institutional arrangements for achieving an orderly change to metric as the predominant measurement system. The Executive Director of the

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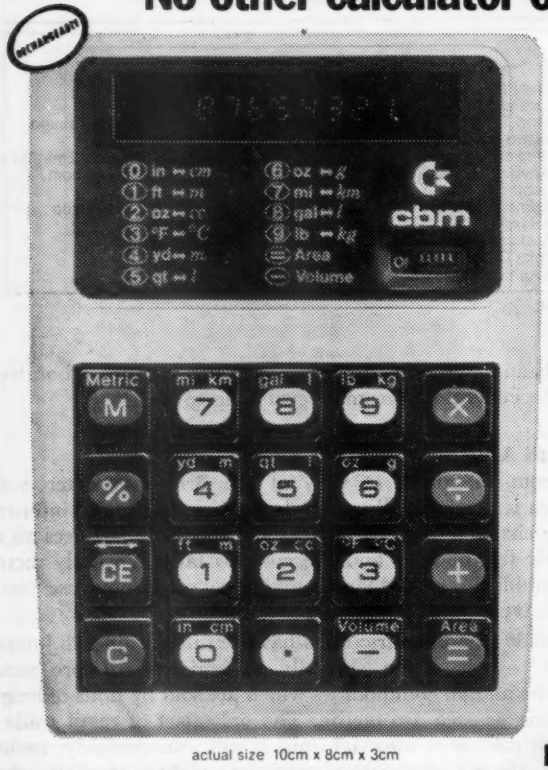

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American National Metric Council said in London recently:

> 'Let there be no misunderstanding. American industry is going metric. Industry in America sees that metric is becoming the world system of measurement. That is a basic fact of life which no country can afford to ignore.'

The National Association of Manufacturers has set up a task force on metrication and standards to work with the American National Metric Council. The task force has set up seven sub-committees to help industry with the metric changes.

For the most part action in the private sector does not have to wait for the passage of legislation. The metric system has been lawful in the United States since 1866. Among the organisations which have already planned the change to metric are some of America's largest commercial corporations. They include General Motors, Ford, Caterpillar, Clark Equipment, International Harvester, John Deere, IBM, A. B. Dick, Honeywell, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing, Xerox, American Rockwell and Boeing.

Zambia

Zambia is now for practical purposes a metric country. All Government operations are metric. Crops are marketed in metric. The import tariff and trade statistics are metric. Freight and transport are metric. The copper mining industry operates in metric units and the textile industry is metric. The Weights and Measures (Sale of Articles) Regulations require a wide range of pre-packed goods to be sold in prescribed metric quantities. Imported goods must comply with the regulations. Trade in goods weighed out in front of the customer is metric.

The Metric System (Non-metric Instruments) (Conversion and Prohibition) (General) Order 1973, published in September 1973, stipulates that as from 1 July 1974 it is not permissible to use the imperial system of weights and measures in any area, industry, trade or transaction in the Republic of Zambia. The Order covers all sectors of the Zambian economy.

EEC

A directive of the European Economic Community, dated 18 October 1971, on units of measurement, prescribes a schedule of metric units to be adopted for use over a wide area, including the economic field, public health and safety and administration by the then member countries within five years from the day on which the directive came into force. Legislation, regulations or administrative arrangements necessary to conform with the directive must be made by member states within 18 months of the same date.

These regulations mean that increasingly the laws of the countries of the Community will demand the use of metric units. These effects will be profound on all countries trading with the EEC whether they are members or not.

The Metric World

The situation now is that 98 countries are metric already, 42 are changing now and only five have yet to announce the decision to change. What began as a far-sighted dream in the 18th century is today a reality. Metric is the measurement language of the world.

Services to exporters

The following Government offices provide services for UK exporters:

Headquarters

Export Services and Promotions Division
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757. Telex 886143 DTI EXPORT LDN

Regional

Office for Scotland
314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF
Tel. 041-248 2855. Telex 77583 DTI GLASGOW

Inverness District Office
Caledonia House, 63/67 Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1LU
Tel. (0463) 30867

Office for Wales
Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL
Tel. (0222) 62131. Telex 49267 DTI CARDIFF

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Office
City House, New Station Street, Leeds LS1 4JQ
Tel. (0532) 38232. Telex 557470 DTI LEEDS

Northern Regional Office
Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4TR
Tel. (0632) 27575. Telex 53178 DTI NTYNE

Cumberland and Westmorland District Office
Town Hall, Cockermouth, Cumberland CA13 9NP
Tel. (090-082) 3498/9. Telex 64173 DTI COCKERMOUTH

North-Western Regional Office
Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA
Tel. 061-236 2171. Telex 667104 DTI MCHR

West-Midlands Regional Office
Ladywood House, Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4DT
Tel. 021-632 4111. Telex 337021 DTI BHAM

East-Midlands Regional Office
Cranbrook House, 47 Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1ES
Tel. (0602) 46121. Telex 37143 DTI NOTTM

South-Western Regional Office
The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB
Tel. (0272) 291071. Telex 44214 DTI BRISTOL

Northern Ireland Department of Commerce
Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX
Tel. (0232) 34488. Telex 747025 GOVNI BELFAST

British firms win three orders worth £11 million: Peter Shore addresses the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, speaking at the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce luncheon on 18 July, referred to the recent signing of the Anglo-Soviet 10 Year Co-operation Agreement and said: 'I am delighted to see that in the last few weeks three substantial orders have been won by British firms amounting to £11 million. I refer to a contract agreed with Rank Xerox for copying machines worth over £4 million, to an order placed with Vickers for aircraft tyre testing equipment worth £4 million and, most recently to an order placed with Clark Equipment for 25 van carriers to transport containers at ports and terminals, worth about £3 million. This firm, is, of course represented on the Anglo-Soviet Working Party on Containerisation and I am particularly glad to see this result. It was also gratifying to hear that the National Westminster Bank has received permission to open a representative office in Moscow. I congratulate all these organisations and I look forward to seeing many more orders being placed in the future. I am sure that the Soviet Government would welcome a positive response from British industry to major industrial and economic projects which it wishes to undertake over the next few years. There are already some good examples of this. CJB have recently won a very large order on a 'co-operation' basis. This is the first major economic co-operation deal which has been concluded between the United Kingdom and the USSR. We hope it will point the way to many others. Major negotiations are already under way in the field of aviation, timber and in the exploitation of natural resources. There are also good prospects in the chemical and petro-chemical industries. Much of the new business in prospect on major projects is likely to be on a co-operation basis and we have agreed that, in order to realise the full potential of economic co-operation, both sides will show in their negotiations the necessary flexibility in individual cases.'

Referring to the Anglo-Soviet Joint Commission which was held in London on 20-22 May 1974, Mr. Shore said: 'It is particularly opportune that we should be drawing up the programme just at this time since, as I am sure you all know, the next Soviet Five Year Plan for 1976-80 is currently being formulated. The work on the concrete programme will, therefore, I very much hope, give the United Kingdom the opportunity to obtain a good position in tendering for business which will be available under the next Five Year Plan. It is, of course, equally important that British firms should be able to take account of Soviet requirements in their own forward planning. There is a lot of work to be done to finalise this programme. A tight target date has been set. I am hopeful, however, with goodwill and hard work on both sides we will hit the target.

'The Joint Commission discussions ranged over the whole field of trade and economic relations, and scientific and technological co-operation. Moveover, the general political climate is better than it has been for some time. We must now work hard to take full advantage of this on the economic and commercial front.'

Mr. Shore went on to say: 'But it is not only the major project business which we wish to see increased. I am sure that many opportunities exist for bread and butter business in the smaller and medium ranges and I know that this is of particular interest and importance to many of you here today. I am, therefore, much encouraged to hear of the Chamber's initiative in organising a charter flight to Moscow for about 100 of your members. I understand that the response has so far been very good, and that your Chairman has already made an exploratory trip to Moscow where he was able to enlist the support of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I am sure that this expedition will provide a most useful opportunity for some of the smaller companies to make direct contact with their Soviet counterparts. I wish the venture every success and look forward to some mutually profitable business resulting from the mission in due course.'

Peter Shore to hold trade talks in Australia and New Zealand

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, will visit Australia and New Zealand from 28 July to 9 August for talks with the Australian and New Zealand Governments on trade and economic matters.

Mr. Shore, who is the first member of the present Cabinet to visit Australia and New Zealand, will review developments in the international trade scene with Ministers, and also brief them on the latest developments in Britain's re-negotiation with the EEC on terms of membership.

He will arrive in Australia on 28 July, and expects to begin his talks in Canberra the next day. From Canberra he will go on to Melbourne and Sydney for talks with State Ministers and businessmen.

He will begin his round of talks in New Zealand at Wellington on 5 August, and also expects to visit Christchurch and Auckland.

Australia is Britain's tenth largest market for exports, which in 1973 totalled £404 million, made up of chemicals, plastics, textiles, machinery, transport equipment, and other manufactured goods. In the same year, Australia ranked fourth among Britain's suppliers: imports totalling £340 million included meat, fruit, wool, minerals, and a range of manufactured goods.

British exports to New Zealand amounted to £167 million in 1973, with machinery and transport equipment the main items. In the same period, Britain imported goods worth £276 million, mainly meat and dairy products.

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available from these sources is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and normally continue until the end of the current calendar year, when they are reviewed.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to Tariff Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption. Representations should be received by 8 August.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
29.14	Acetic anhydride	as in previous column	31 December 1974	15228
39.01	Phenoplast moulding powders	Phenol-formaldehyde moulding powder	31 December 1974	14902
39.02	Laminated sheets in rolls, not printed or surface worked, being not less than 0.25 millimetre and not more than 3.00 millimetres in thickness, and either (a) having not more than three plies consisting of polymers or copolymers of styrene, or (b) having one ply consisting of polypropylene or a polymer or copolymer of ethylene and not more than two plies consisting of a polymer or copolymer of styrene, the latter ply/plies predominating by weight	Laminated sheets	31 December 1974	14377
73.20	Steel bends, welded, with an outside diameter of not less than 911 millimetres and not more than 918 millimetres and a wall thickness of not less than 12 millimetres and not more than 14 millimetres for use in the transmission of natural gas	Hot-pressed welded bends	31 December 1974	15218
76.03	Sheets of aluminium alloy, of a width of not less than 575 millimetres and not more than 731 millimetres and a thickness exceeding 0.20 millimetre but not more than 0.30 millimetre; containing not less than 0.2 per cent and not more than 0.6 per cent by weight of manganese as the major alloying element	Aluminium sheet and coil	31 December 1974	15256
	Strip of aluminium alloy, in coils, of a width of not less than 200 millimetres and not more than 250 millimetres and a thickness exceeding 0.20 millimetre but not more than 0.30 millimetre; containing not less than 0.2 per cent. and not more than 0.6 per cent by weight of manganese as the major alloying element	Aluminium sheet and coil	31 December 1974	15256

REVISED DEFINITION

Interested parties will wish to know that the definition for Alloy steel billets (73.15) advertised in *Trade and Industry* on 10 January 1974 has been revised as follows:

Alloy steel billets containing not less than 0.3 per cent and not more than 1.7 per cent by weight of manganese and containing one or more of the following elements, by weight, in the proportions indicated:

	Not less than %	Not more than %
Chromium	0.3	5.0
Nickel	0.4	5.0
Molybdenum	0.2	2.5

and having a cross-section of which neither the width nor the thickness is less than 50 millimetres, not more than 250 millimetres.

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, with Tan Sri Sardon, Malaysian Minister for Communications. The Malaysian Minister was in Britain for the State Visit of the King of Malaysia.

Post Office dollar loan

Arrangements are being concluded by the Post Office for a number of medium term loans aggregating $500 million. Of this amount, $375 million are at fixed rates of interest and have been arranged by or with:

Bank of America, NT and SA
Citicorp International Bank Ltd.
Commerzbank International SA
Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., and
Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York.

$125 million will be provided on a floating rate basis by a syndicate led by the Chase Manhattan Bank NA of which the other members are:

Barclays Bank International
International Westminster Bank
Lloyds Bank
Midland Bank
Orion Termbank.

The Post Office has been advised by S. G. Warburg and Co. Ltd.

The financing represents the second part of a $1,000 million borrowing programme. Completion of the first part was announced last September. The borrowings have all been made with the benefit of exchange cover from HM Treasury.

ECGD General Purpose Lines of Credit

The table below gives lines of credit guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department under which there is capacity for further export business to be financed out of the credits.

Departmental reference	Tel. ext. at ECGD HQ	Recipient	UK Bank	Purpose	Loan value £m	Minimum single contract value £000's	Final date for entering into contracts
LC 263	7171	Algeria	Lloyds	Capital goods and associated services	10	10	31 December 1974
LC 264	7171	Algeria	Lloyds	Industrial plant, machinery, and associated services	1	10	20 June 1975
LC 96	7369	Brazil	Baring Brothers	Electrical plant and equipment for the Marimbondo hydro-electric project	5	$200,000 (Sterling equivalent)	31 August 1975
LC 319	7369	Brazil	Schroder Wagg	Capital goods and associated services	5	10	30 September 1975
LC 394	7302	Bulgaria	National Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	3	5	31 March 1975
LC 344	7369	Costa Rica	National Westminster	Capital goods, plant, machinery and associated services	0.5	10	30 April 1975
LC 200	7302	Cuba	National Westminster	Miscellaneous capital equipment and associated services	5	10	31 December 1974
LC 225	698	Cyprus	Midland	Capital and semi-capital goods	0.3	10	30 November 1974
LC 224	615	Denmark	Midland	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	Expired but extensions under consideration
LC 292	615	Denmark	Barclays Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	1	10	
LC 293	615	Denmark	Barclays Bank International	Capital plant and equipment	1	10	
LC 295	7340	Finland	Scandinavian Bank Ltd.	Capital plant and equipment and associated services (Oy Wartsila AB)	0.8	10	21 March 1975
LC 290	615	France	Midland	Industrial plant and equipment and similar capital goods	5	10	Expired but extensions under consideration
LC 289	615	France	Midland	Industriql plant and equipment and similar capital goods	5	10	
LC 317	615	France	Lloyds	Industrial plant and machinery	5	10	31 August 1974
LC 361	615	France	National Westminster	Industrial plant and equipment	1	10	31 October 1974
LC 396	7302	German Democratic Republic	National Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	2	10	9 April 1976
LC 324	615	German Federal Republic	Lloyds	Industrial plant and machinery	5	10	30 September 1974
LC 376	615	German Federal Republic	National Westminster	Industrial plant and equipment	2	10	31 October 1974
LC 227	615	Irish Republic	National Westminster	Capital and semi-capital goods	2	10	31 December 1974
LC 226	615	Israel	Warburgs	Capital plant and equipment	3	10	31 July 1974
LC 234	615	Israel	Rothschilds	Capital plant and equipment	3	10	31 July 1974
LC 280	615	Israel	Charterhouse Japhet	Capital plant and equipment	5.5	10	15 August 1974
LC 351	7171	Liberia	Morgan Grenfell	Capital goods and associated services	3	50	30 June 1975
LC 60	7177	Mexico	Lloyds	Capital goods and small projects	5	15	15 December 1974
LC 353	698	Mozambique	Baring Brothers	Industrial plant and machinery and sundry capital goods	2	10	31 March 1975
LC 332	7367	Peru	Schroder Wagg	Capital equipment and small projects	1.5	10	7 May 1975
LC 236	594	Philippines	Rothschild	Textile machinery	3	200	Expired, but extension under consideration
LC 391	7302	Poland	Barclays Bank International	Capital goods and associated services	10	500	31 March 1975
LC 400	7302	Poland	Lloyds	Capital goods and associated services	15	100	31 March 1975
LC 310	698	Portugal	Rothschild	Industrial plant and machinery	5	25	2 July 1975
LC 420	7302	Romania	National Westminster	Capital goods and associated services	3	5	31 May 1976
LC 119	7152	South Africa	Schroder Wagg	Capital and semi-capital goods and associated services	25	10	31 October 1974
LC 252	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel	Telecommunication equipment for the South African Post Office	20	—	31 March 1975
LC 113	7152	South Africa	Schroder Wagg	Capital equipment and associated services for the South African Iron and Steel Industrial Corporation Ltd. (ISCOR)	38	100	31 December 1974
LC 314	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd.	UK goods and associated UK services primarily for use on various railway projects	18	80	22 April 1976
LC 397	7152	South Africa	Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd.	Capital goods and related services for the electric supply undertakings operated by ESCOM	5	100	30 September 1975
LC 382	7340	Spain	Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd.	Capital goods and associated services	5	10	31 December 1975
LC 371	698	Sweden	Scandinavian Bank	Ships equipment and other capital goods (Stal-Laval Turbin AB)	2	10	21 November 1974
LC 364	698	Sweden	Hambros	Ships equipment and sundry capital goods (Uddevallavarvet A/B)	1.692	100	25 September 1974
LC 365	698	Sweden	Hambros	Plant and equipment and associated services (Eriksberg Mekaniska Verkstads A/B)	2.4	10	10 October 1975
LC 122	7302	Yugoslavia	Barclays	Capital goods and associated services	10	10	31 December 1974
LC 208	7152	Zambia	Tozer Standard & Chartered Ltd.	Capital goods and services for development of open-cast and underground mining (Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines Ltd.)	4.8	40	30 December 1974
LC 285	7152	Zambia	Morgan Grenfell	Capital goods for development of the mining industry (Roan Consolidated Mines Ltd.)	2.4	5	8 November 1974

Requests for further information on any of these lines of credit should be made to the bank concerned or to Export Credits Guarantee Department, PO Box 272, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (tel. 01-606 6699, extensions as listed above).

ECGD news

South London office moves to Croydon

The South London office of the Export Credits Guarantee Department at Lancaster House, 70 Newington Causeway, London SE1, closed on 19 July and reopened at new premises at 320 Purley Way, Croydon (tel. 01-686 9921) on Monday, 22 July.

In addition to providing the usual services to policyholders, the new office will assume responsibility for the underwriting and issue of policies, the handling of premium declarations and the initial examination of claims, work previously done at the London head office.

The area serviced from the South London office covers the London postal regions SE1 to SE27, SW2 to SW20, W2 to W14, the counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, East Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, and the Channel Isles. The office has 1,350 policyholders responsible for £400 million of exports each year. In the Croydon area alone, there are 76 policyholders doing some £24 million of exports each year.

Mr. G. J. Link, who has been in charge of ECGD's South London office for over three years, is continuing as the regional director of the new office. There is a staff of 47, of whom half come from within five miles of Croydon.

Brazil: line of credit for Itumbiara hydro-electric project

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £10.5 million line of credit for use in connection with the Itumbiara Hydro-Electric project in Brazil.

Finance has been made available to Furnas Centrais Electricas SA by Baring Brothers acting on behalf of themselves and Williams & Glyn's Bank. To qualify under this line of credit, contracts must have a minimum value of £100,000 and must be placed before 9 July 1979. Repayment of the loan will be over a period of 10 years.

Exporters interested in further details of this facility should contact either ECGD (Mrs. J. Kallar, tel. 01-606 6699 ext. 7369) or Baring Brothers (Mr. B. Black tel. 01-588 2830).

Benelux: quotas for trade with Bulgaria and Hungary

Quota lists for the exchange of goods between the Benelux countries and Bulgaria and between the Benelux countries and Hungary during 1974 were published in the Dutch journal *Wereldmarkt* nos. 26 and 27 of 27 June and 4 July 1974 respectively. A copy of the text, in Dutch, is available on request. Applications from British exporters for copies should be addressed to OTAR section, Export Data Branch.

EDB ext. 288/466/467

Sudan: Trade Marks Act 1969

It should be noted that in accordance with the Trade Marks Act 1969, which repealed the Trade Marks Ordinance 1931 and came into force on 9 September 1969, the last date for re-classification of trade mark registrations of a date before 9 September 1969 is 8 September 1974. If application for re-classification is not made by that date the relevant trade mark registration will lose its validity and be removed from the Official Register even though the term of the registration has not expired. Owners of trade marks registered under the 1931 Ordinance should therefore apply for re-classification before 8 September next if they wish their registration to continue in force in the Sudan.

Further information about the new trade mark law was given in a notice in *Trade and Industry* of 16 September 1971.

Copies of the new Act and Rules are available for consultation in the Chancery House Annexe of the Science Reference Library (Holborn Branch), Chancery House, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AY.

East Africa Conference Lines: increased freight charges

It was announced on 10 July that the East African Conference Lines have imposed a 15 per cent increase in freight charges from East and Central Africa to begin on 1 October 1974. The increase will affect exports *not* being shipped under contract.

Contact exports comprise about 80 per cent of East African outgoing freight and include sisal, cotton, tea, coffee and copper. Other non-contract miscellaneous items, which include cashew nuts at about 120,000 tons per annum, are affected by the increase. **CRE ext. 5226**

The Export Credits Guarantee Department is guaranteeing a loan of up to £53 million, which Brandts Ltd. arranged on behalf of Lloyds Bank Ltd., to Altos Hornos de Mexico SA (AHMSA). The Mexican company has placed a £45 million contract with Davy Ashmore International Ltd. for a major expansion of an iron and steel complex. Robert Fell (right), Secretary of ECGD and a member of the British Overseas Trade Board, is seen here with Jose Antonio Padilla Segura, director general of the Mexican steel company, at a lunch held in London last week in honour of the visiting Mexican (see page 172).

India: Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973

In *Trade and Industry*, 21 February 1974, attention was drawn to the requirements of Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act 1973 affecting companies (other than banking companies) incorporated outside India, or with a non-resident interest exceeding 40 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India has issued a notice extending until 31 August 1974 the time limit for submission of applications under that Section of the Act.

Copies of the notice are available. **CRE ext. 5277**

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. 01-222 7877

EDB Export Data Branch, Export Services Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757

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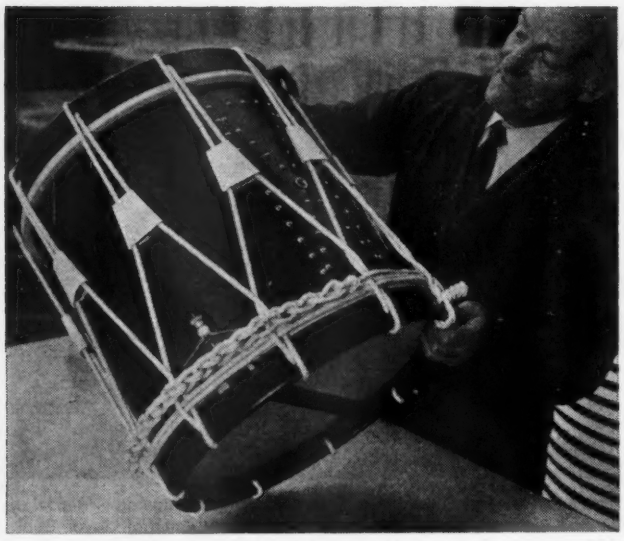

This replica of a field drum played by the Colonial Americans at the time of the American Declaration of Independence in 1776 was hand-made by craftsmen of Rose, Morris & Co. Ltd., London. It is one of a number of drums to be made for the Drum and Fife Corps of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Virginia. The company ensured authenticity of design and material through intensive research by the general manager, an authority on military musical instruments. The drum pictured here is unemblazoned. It is made of wood, with vellum drum heads, gut snares, and white ropes which control the tone, and has an authentic nail board embellishment.

Hints to business men booklet on Singapore

A revised edition of the booklet on Singapore has been published in the 'Hints to business men' series. British business men who intend visiting this country on export business can obtain copies of the booklet on application to Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146) or to any Regional Office of the Department of Industry.

Republic of Korea: telex service

Following information received from the British Embassy in Seoul: An answer back telex service will be operative from 15 July.

The telex number is K27320. Answer back is PRODROM K27320.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Australia: screening of foreign investment proposals

The Australian Government have recently announced the establishment of new machinery to extend the system of surveillance by the Government of foreign investment.

A new interdepartmental committee is to be established to examine and provide advice on foreign investment proposals which come under notice through the exchange control mechanism and which do not involve the takeover of Australian business.

The Committee will parallel and complement the existing Committee on Foreign Takeovers, and like the latter will have purely advisory functions. Its establishment does not effect existing procedures under which applications for exchange control approval for individual foreign investment proposals are processed through the Reserve Bank.

It will also be asked to bring forward detailed proposals for the screening of foreign investment activities which do not involve exchange control approvals eg investment proposals which would be financed by foreign interest from funds available to them from Australian sources.

CRE 25987/4 **CRE ext. 5319**

Over 40 companies took part in an exhibition at the showrooms of Alta Machine Tools Ltd., Oldbury, Worcestershire, recently. The exhibition was opened by Quinton Hazell, an industrialist. He is seen (centre) with Nick Jerromes, managing director of Alta Machine Tools, and a representative from British Airways, who is on the Alta Machine Tool exports stand. Alta Machine Tools has an ambitious export programme and is currently negotiating to supply machine tools in France, the Middle East and the Far East. The exhibition was supported by the Engineering Industries Association.

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Tariff and Trade Notices

Irish Republic

Import quotas

The Government of the Irish Republic has announced the following quotas under the control of Imports Acts, 1934 to 1964:

SI no. of 1974	Quota no.	Commodity	Quota period	Quota
155	12	Hose of silk or man-made fibre of a value not exceeding £2.50 per dozen pairs	1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975	6,000,000 pairs
156	28	Miscellaneous brushes of a value of £1.50 and over per dozen	1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975	660,000 articles
157	53	Miscellaneous brushes of a value of less than £1.50 per dozen	1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975	2,200,000 articles
158	35	Sparking plugs	1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975	1,250,000 articles
159	36	Laminated springs	1 July 1974 to 30 June 1975	A quantity equal in value to £200,000

Copies of the Orders (Statutory Instruments) may be obtained from the Government Publications Sale Office, GPO Arcade, Dublin 1, price 1p each, postage 3½p. **EDB ext. 467/466/288**

France

Duty free imports

Following EEC Regulation No. 1522/74 on the tariff treatment of certain products, the French *Journal Officiel* of 27 June 1974 published the list of goods to be admitted free of duty from 1 July to 31 December 1974 inclusive, when intended for use in the maintenance and repair of aeroplanes of the types Mercure and Airbus. The products fall within the following tariff headings: 62.05 ex C, ex 84.12, ex 84.21, 84.22 ex D, 84.61 ex B, 85.01 A ex II and ex C, 85.15 A ex II, 90.24 ex C, 90.28 ex A and ex B, 90.29 ex A and ex B, and 92.11 A ex I and ex II.

Inquiries relating to this notice should be addressed to OTAR section. Copies of the full French text can be sent or seen at Export House. **EDB ext. 423/408/482**

Netherlands

Glassware regulations

A Netherlands decree of 20 May 1974 (*Staatsblad* 367) amends the Glassware Decree (Commodity Law). Copies of the decree (in Dutch) are available: an English translation of the Glassware Decree incorporating the amendments is being prepared and should be available in about a month's time. Applications from British exporters for copies should be addessed to OTAR(b) section, Export Data Branch. **EDB ext. 288/466/467**

Sweden

Measures against radio interference from motor vehicles

The Swedish Board of Commerce has announced that all private cars, motor cycles and mopeds provided with high-voltage ignition systems must be checked and approved for radio interference if they are offered for sale or sold for use in Sweden. Approval certificates, which may relate to types or individual vehicles, are issued after satisfactory tests by the Swedish postal authorities or by an authorised foreign authority.

The announcement came into force on 1 July 1974 and applies to all private cars and motor vehicles designated as 1975 or later models and all mopeds approved during moped inspection after 1 July 1974 or for which type certificates are issued on the basis of type inspections after that date.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: 01-222 7877); and Export Data Branch (EDB), Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (CRE or EDB) and the appropriate telephone extension number. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

A computer network covering six countries is being supplied by International Computers Ltd. – the Swedish company Stemberg Flygt has chosen six of these ICL 2903 systems for installation in its subsidiaries in Britain, Canada, Federal Germany, France, Sweden and the United States. Initially the systems will be used for routine tasks such as invoicing, sales statistics, financial accounting and stock recording, but they will be developed to include on-line order entry and stock control. Since the introduction of the 2903 in 1973, ICL has sold some 200 of the computer systems – two-thirds of them to customers outside Britain.

British exporters who require technical assistance on how to comply with the requirements are advised to contact Technical Help to Exporters, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ (tel. 0442 3111, telex 82424).

Inquiries arising from this notice may be addressed to OTAR section, Export Data Branch, where a copy of these requirements in Swedish may be consulted. **EDB ext. 458/459**

Spain

Opening of global quotas

The Spanish global quotas for 1974 were published in *Trade and Industry* for 24 January 1974 (page 126). The Spanish authorities have now invited applications for the second half of 1974, from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the following quotas for the second half of 1974.

Quota no.	Tariff no.	Description	Value of licence for which applications are invited (Pesetas)
45	87.02.B2	Special vehicles for transporting goods, rocks and minerals	177,156,000
47	87.02.A.1	Motor vehicles for the transport of goods or of persons and goods (dual purpose)	550,000,000
49	87.01.C 87.02.A.2 87.02.B.1 87.02.B.3 87.04 87.05 ex 87.06	Industrial motor vehicles and their parts and spares for their manufacture	150,000

Application should be presented for the above quotas not later than 30 days from the date of publication in the *State Gazette* of 11 July 1974.

Quota no.	Tariff no.	Description	Value of licence for which applications are invited (pesetas)
16	15.10C	Industrial fatty alcohols	35,750,000
18	17.02A.1 17.02B.1	Sugar, glucose, lactose and maltose	35,750,000
22	35.05	Dextrins and dextrin glues; souble or roasted starches; starch glues	2,500,000
23	36.06	Matches	500,000
24	37.04A 37.05B	Photographic material	2,750,000
29	55.05 55.06	Cotton yarns	12,100,000
31	58.04E 58.08 58.9 60.01C	Tulle, lace, velvet and knitted goods	15,400,000
32	ex 59.07 ex 59.08 ex 59.11 ex 59.13 ex 60.06	Special cotton fabrics	12,500,000
33	ex 58.01B ex 58.02 ex 58.03	Carpets and rugs made of cotton	5,000,000
34	58.05D ex 58.07 59.01 ex 59.04B ex 59.05C ex 59.06 ex 59.14 ex 59.15	Other textile manufactures	11,000,000
35	ex 60.02 ex 60.03 60.04C 60.05C	Knitted fabrics	1,650,000
36	61.0A 61.02A	Outer garments	7,150,00
37	61.03A 61.04A	Under garments	825,000
38	61.05 61.10A 61.11A	Other garments and fabric accessories	3,250,000
39	62.01B.1 62.02A 62.03 ex 62.04 62.05B	Other made up textile articles	4,400,000

Applications should be presented for the above quotas not later than 30 days from the date of publication in the *State Gazette* of 12 July 1974. **EDB ext. 462/471/472/473**

Import duty suspensions and reductions: extensions of validity

Notice was given in *Trade and Industry*, 18 April 1974, page 141, of the suspension of import duty until 26 June 1974 on synthetic rubber based on polybutadienestyrene, tariff heading 40.02.B.1, and on hides and skins used in the footwear industry and classified under the tariff headings below, and of a reduction of import duty to 1.3 per cent on goods under tariff heading 41.04.B.2 and to 2.4 per cent on goods under tariff heading 41.04.B.3.

41.01.A3.a	41.01.A5.a	41.02.A1.a	41.02.A1.b	41.03.A1.a
41.03.A1.b	41.03.A1.c	41.03.A1.d	41.03.A2.a	41.03.A2.b
41.04.B1.a	41.04.B1.b	41.04.B1.c	41.05.A1.a	41.05.A1.b

The Spanish *State Gazette*, 9 July 1974, announced the extension of validity until 27 September

Petrochemical products. Notice was given in *Trade and Industry*, 9 May 1974, of duty reductions and suspensions valid until 30 June 1974 on petrochemical products. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 9 July 1974, announced the extension of validity until 30 September on the following:

Tariff no.	Description	Duty
29.01.A.1	Butadiene	Nil
29.01.B.5	Sryrene	Nil
29.08.D	Ethylene glycol	4.5%
29.15.D.1	Dimethyle terephalate	Nil
29.22.A.4	Hexamethylenediamine monomer adipate	Nil
29.27.B	Acrylenitrile (monomer)	Nil
29.35.G	Caprolactums	Nil
39.01.E.1	Hexamethylene-diamine adipate polymers	4.5%
39.01.E.2	Other polyamides	4.5%
39.01.G	Ethylene glycol polyterephthalate	4.5%
39.02.A.1 39.02.A.2	Polyethylene	Nil
39.02.G.1	Acrylonitrile copoly	Nil
39.02.H.1	Polyvinyl-butyral and polyvinyl-formal	Nil

Calcium nitrate. Notice was given in *Trade and Industry*, 4 April 1974, page 28, of the suspension of import duty on calcium nitrate, tariff heading 31.02C, until 21 June 1974. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 9 July 1974, announced the extension of validity until 21 September. **EDB ext. 462/471/472/473**

Home compensation tax

The Spanish *State Gazette* of 9 July 1974, announced a reduction in home compensation tax levy to 1.5 per cent on liquified ammonia tariff heading 28.16A valid until 4 September and on the following vaild from 9 July to 8 October.

Tariff no.	Description
73.06A	Steel ingots of more than 1,000 kilos
73.07B1	Square billets
73.07B3a	Flat billets of first quality and at least five metres long
73.08	Iron or steel coils for re-rolling

EDB ext. 462/471/472/473

Portugal

Import and export controls

Trade and Industry, 23 May and 20 June 1974, published details of temporary import and export controls established by Decree Laws 191/74 and 246/74. These controls have now been replaced by more permanent regulations contained in Decree Law 307/74 of 6 July 1974.

Import licences issued by the Controlling Commission for External Trade will continue to be required for all consignments valued at five million escudos or more and export licences for consignments of two and a half million escudos or more. Consignments of a lower value remain governed by the regulations in force before 6 May 1974, ie prior registration is required for all consignments over 25,000 escudos.

The provision for the prohibition of specific goods is no longer operative. The Commission is, however, required to keep itself informed about the development of imports of non-essential consumer goods and exports of products essential to the supply of the home market and may 'propose such measures as it deems appropriate'. No further information is available at present. **EDB ext. 460/461**

Israel

Portland cement: maximum price

The Israeli authorities have issued an order in respect of the maximum price for grey Portland cement. Copies are available to British exporters on request. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Vehicle safety regulations

The Israeli Ministry of Transport has confirmed that the Vehicle Safety Regulations (see *Trade and Industry*, 4 April 1974) came into force on 1 April 1974 and apply to new registrations only.

EDB ext. 420/475

Jordan

Meat: prior approval for import

The Jordanian *Official Gazette* No. 2497 of 25 June 1974 carries defence order No. 3 issued by the Minister of Supplies, banning the clearance of fresh, chilled or frozen meat imported into Jordan without written prior approval of the Minister. The same will apply to cases in which licences were issued before the date of publication of the order. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Dubai

Foodstuffs: exempt from customs duty

Following a notice issued by the Port and Customs Department of the Government of Dubai, the following foodstuffs are exempt from duty from 1 May 1974:

Rice (excluding any form of pre-cooked or canned rice or rice preparations), sugar, wheat, flour and fresh, frozen or chilled meat (excluding any form of pre-cooked or canned meat or meat preparations)

Livestock, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit will continue to be exempt. No further details are available. **EDB ext. 420/475**

Iran

Import registration fees

Trade and Industry of 4 April 1974 stated, under the heading 'New import and export regulations', that the reduction in import registration fees from 5½ per cent to 1 per cent was subject to parliamentary legislation. Advice has now been received that this reduction has been authorised by the Iranian authorities and is in force.

EDB ext. 420/475

Dr. Abd Ar Rahman Shubaili, Director-General of Saudi Arabian Television (right), who has recently visited Britain as a guest of the Government, looking at a model of a semi submersible drilling platform, with Brian Marson-Smith, British Petroleum's regional co-ordinator for the Middle East, during his visit to the company's offices in London.

CRE telephone 01-222 7877 **EDB** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to these numbers are given at the end of each notice.

Ghana

Imports and Exports (Fees) Regulations 1974

The Ghanaian Government has announced from 1 July 1974 the registration fees charged for import licences and payable to commercial banks are as follows:

for Open General Licence C25.00
for Specific Import Licence C50,00
Rates of import levy remain unchanged.

EDB ext. 473/472/471/462

Nigeria

Labour

A new Labour Decree has been passed covering such areas as conditions of employment, redundancies, etc. Date of implementation not yet known. **CRE ext. 3064/3338**

Zaire

Increase in electricity and water prices

On 1 July the following increases in the domestic and industrial tariffs for electricity and water were announced:

domestic electricity up by about 45 per cent
domestic water up by about 300 per cent
industrial electricity up by about 50 per cent
industrial water up by about 50 per cent

Copies of the new tariffs are available. **CRE ext. 3338/5334**

Foreman versus Ali fight: publicity material

It has been announced that no goods, 'gadgets' or publicity material relating to Foreman versus Ali fight (see *Trade and Industry*, 6 June 1974) may be manufactured or sold without prior permission from the authority organising the match. Infringements of the decree will result in a prison sentence of not more than one year and a fine of not more than 50 Zaires. **CRE ext. 3338/5334**

Zambia

Soap and scouring powders: suspension of duties

The Customs and Excise (Suspension) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 1974, published as Statutory Instrument No. 117 in *Government Gazette* 84 of 28 June 1974, amend the Customs and Excise (Suspension) Regulations 1970 by the insertion of the following under the appropriate headings:

Heading no.	Description of goods	Effective rate of duty
34.01.10	Toilet soap in tablet form, when imported by persons approved by the Minister and under such conditions as may be determined by the Minister	Free
34.01.20	Shaving soap, when imported by persons approved by the Minister and under such conditions as may be determined by the Minister	Free
34.01.30	Common, laundry and household soap, when imported by persons approved by the Minister and under such conditions as may be determined by the Minister	Free
34.01.40	Soft and saddle soap, when imported by persons approved by the Minister and under such conditions as may be determined by the Minister	Free
34.01.90	Other, when imported by persons approved by the Minister and under such conditions as may be determined by the Minister	Free
34.02.10	Of a kind used as a substitute for soap, when imported by persons approved by the Minister and under such conditions as may be determined by the Minister	Free
34.02.90	Other, when imported by persons approved by the Minister and under such conditions as may be determined by the Minister	Free
34.05.10	Scouring powders, when imported by persons approved by the Minister and under such conditions as may be determined by the Minister	Free

These regulations revoked Customs and Excise (Suspension) (Amendment) (No. 6) Regulations 1973 and became operational on 1 November 1973. **EDB ext. 471/472/473/462**

South Africa

Customs tariff application

Customs Tariff Application List No. 634, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 12 July 1974, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

Yarn of polyester fibres

Key rings and tags.

Customs Tariff Application List No. 635, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 19 July 1974 contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

Table linen including serviettes

Towels and face cloths and certain unprinted woven fabrics. (This application modifies part 2 of TA list No. 631 published in *Trade and Industry* of 27 June 1974.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the applications are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to the Commercial Relations and Export Department. **CRE ext. 5274**

Customs tariff changes

The following amendment was published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 5 July:

R.1143: B.N.38.19.

Specific provision, at a rate of duty of 20%, is made for flotation reagents containing dicresyldithiophosphoric acid or alkyl dithiophosphates.

EDB ext. 471/472/473/462

Measuring standards

The South African *Government Gazette* No. 4236 of 5 July carries details of national measuring standards approved under the Measuring Units and National Measuring Standards Act 1973. These standards are effective from the date of publication.

EDB ext. 471/472/473/462

Sri Lanka

Companies (Special Provisions) Bill

The *Official Gazette* of Sri Lanka gave notification, on 15 March 1974, of the Sri Lankan Government's intention to introduce a bill requiring all companies (with the exception of those specifically exempted by the Minister of Foreign Trade), to be incorporated in Sri Lanka.

The bill, with incorporated amendments, has now become law and has fixed 1 September 1974 as the last day before which all companies must be locally incorporated. The Act makes provision for acquisition, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, of the undertakings of companies which are not incorporated or exempted by the due date, and provides for payment of compensation.

Copies of the Act will be available shortly. **CRE ext. 5278**

Bangladesh

Import licence tax

The proposals announced in the Bangladesh Budget for the year 1974/75 included the introduction of an import licence tax. This will be at the rate of 20 per cent value of the licence to be levied on all import licences, with the exemption of fertilisers, food grains, crude and refined oil, insecticides, edible oil, baby food, raw cotton, cotton yarn, cotton textiles, refined coconut oil, medicines, and non-development imports in the government account. Effect to this proposal will be notified in the Bangladesh *Gazette* in due course.

EDB ext. 420/475

Registered trade marks

The lists of Tariff, Customs and Import Regulations changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Malaysia

Customs duties amendments

The Malaysian *Government Gazette* has published the following two amendments to the Customs Duties Order 1968.

1 Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 11) Order 1974 amends the First Schedule to the order by substituting for the figures and words '$2.50 for each net of 13 sq. yds. or less and for every additional 13 sq. yds. or part thereof, an additional $2.50' appearing in column 4 against heading numbers 62.02 201 and 62.02 209 the figures and words '25 per cent or $2.50 for each net of 13 sq. yds. or less and for every additional 13 sq. yds. or part thereof, an additional $2.50, whichever is the higher'.

2 Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 12) Order 1974 amends the First Schedule to the order by deleting the heading numbers 73.01 100, 73.10 920, 73.14 120, 73.14 130, 73.14 140, 73.15 410, 73.15 420, 73.15 510, 73.15 520, 73.15 910 and 73.15 920 and all the particulars, and inserting the following:

Heading no.	Description	Unit of quality	Federation common tariff
73.10	Bars and rods (including wire rod), of iron or steel, hot-rolled, forged extruded, cold-formed or cold-finished (including precision-made); hollow mining drill steel:		
	Wire rod:		
110	not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
190	other	Ton	Nil
	Other:		
	round:		
921	not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
929	other	Ton	Nil
73.14	Iron or steel wire, whether or not coated but not insulated:		
120	exceeding 3.25 mm but not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
130	exceeding 5.5 mm but not exceeding 9.75 mm	Ton	Nil
140	exceeding 9.75 mm but not exceeding 13 mm	Ton	Nil
73.15	Alloy steel and high carbon steel in the forms mentioned in heading Nos. 73.06 to 73.14:		
	Wire rod:		
	of high carbon steel:		
411	not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
419	other	Ton	Nil
	of alloy steel:		
421	not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
429	other	Ton	Nil
	Bars and rods (excluding wire rod) and hollow mining drill steel:		
	of high carbon steel:		
511	not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
519	other	Ton	Nil
	of alloy steel:		
521	not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
529	other	Ton	Nil
	Wire:		
	of high carbon steel:		
911	not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
919	other	Ton	Nil
	of alloy steel:		
921	not exceeding 5.5 mm	Ton	$100
929	other	Ton	Nil

EDB ext. 469/468/401

Japan

Country of Origin markings

Further to notices in *Trade and Industry* on 15 January and 11 July 1974, unofficial translations of circulars and a notification on country of origin rules and markings issued by the Japanese Fair Trade Commission are now available to British exporters on request. The documents are as follows:

FTC Circular 14 (explaining the application of regulations to food, clothing and sundry goods)

FTC Notification 34 (revised unofficial translation)

FTC Circular 12 (sets out standards for implementing Notification 34)

FTC Circular 15 (explaining application of Notification 34 to clothing)

CRE ext. 3457

New Zealand

Wire rope grips and clamps: Tariff and Development Board report

Copies of the New Zealand Tariff and Development Board report on wire rope grips and clamps are available from Commercial Relations and Exports Division. Ref. CRE 1209/73. **CRE ext. 5321**

Locks, etc.: Tariff and Development Board interim report

Copies of the New Zealand Tariff and Development Board interim report on locks, etc. (tariff item 83.01.012) are available from Commercial Relations and Exports Division. Ref. CRE 1195/72

CRE ext. 5321

Canada

Tariff changes

The Canadian authorities have amended the Customs Duties Reduction Regulations, resulting in the following changes in the customs tariff:

Tariff item	Description	British preferential tariff	Most favoured nation tariff	General tariff
NEW ITEMS				
20222-1	Woven paper matting, coated or uncoated, for use in the manufacture of automobile ventilated seat cushions (Expires 30 June 1975)	5%	7½%	25%
32680-1	Hollow spheres of glass, 20 to 80 microns in diameter, for use in the manufacture of explosives (Expires 30 June 1975)	Free	Free	22½%
34904-1	Phosphorus deoxidised copper billets, alloy No. 122, having a maximum cross-sectional dimension of four inches or less, for use in the manufacture of copper tubing (Expires 30 June 1975)	Free	Free	25%
35320-1	Aluminium powder, atomised or flaked, for use in the manufacture of explosives (Expires 28 February 1975)	Free	Free	30%
39007-1	Valve forgings, in the rough consisting of stainless steel heads welded to steel stems, for use in the manufacture of intake or exhaust valves for machines commonly known as integrated reciprocating gas compressors or for engines of 500 hp or more (Expires 31 October 1975)	Free	Free	27½%
41008-1	Steel tubing, made to specification AISI 1035, with an outside diameter of not less than 1.75 inches nor more than 5.5 inches, welded, drawn over mandrel, for use in the manufacture of core barrels, drill rods or drill casings (Expires 30 June 1975)	Free	Free	25%
51106-1	Shafts, composed wholly or in part of graphite, for use in the manufacture of golf clubs (Expires 31 October 1975)	Free	Free	35%
56209-1	Woven fabrics, which otherwise would be classified under tariff item 56205-1, for use in the manufacture of drapes and curtains and, per pound (Expires 30 June 1975)	22½%	22½% 13cts	45% 40 cts
60310-1	Long-haired cow hide, tanned or dressed with the hair on, for use as uppers in the manufacture of footwear (Expires 30 June 1975)	Free	Free	15%
AMENDED ITEMS				
38020-1	Channels and beams of iron or steel, not further manufactured than hot- or cold-rolled or hot-formed, for use in the manufacture of masts for industrial trucks commonly known as 'fork-lift' or 'lift' trucks (Expires 31 October 1975)	Free	Free	20%
52245-1	Woven fabrics, wholly of combed cotton yarns of count sixty or finer, for use in the manufacture of men's and boys' shirts (Expires 28 February 1975)	10%	10%	35%

EDB ext. 455/456/457

Propanol: 'Made in Canada' ruling

The Canadian authorities have announced the transfer of N-Propyl Alcohol (Propanol) from a category of a kind made in Canada to that of a kind not made in Canada. Effective date: 28 June 1974.

EDB ext. 455/456/457

Antigua

Caribbean Common Market

The Antigua Government signed the Caribbean Common Market Treaty on 4 July 1974 to join the other Less Developed member countries – Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia and St. Vincent – who signed the treaty on 1 May 1974. The present membership of CARICOM comprises these LDCs, with Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla has still to join. **CRE ext. 5627**

Jamaica

National Development Agency set up

The Jamaican Government has established the National Development Agency, an interim body which will be a forerunner of the National Development Corporation. The agency will perform the function of a management organisation, employing the skills for implementing projects using funds derived directly from and on behalf of the Government and its agencies. **CRE ext. 5627**

Barbados

Printed books and booklets: import licensing lifted

The Barbados Government notice 140 of 30 May 1974 states that printed books and booklets have been removed from the list of articles which require an import licence. **EDB ext. 7312/474/476**

Venezuela

Nutritional preparations: duty reduced

Venezuelan Government decree reduces the rate of import duty on 'nutritional preparations not elsewhere specified' (tariff no. 21.07.00.99) to 1 per cent *ad valorem* cif. These goods will now require an import licence issued by the Ministry of Development.

EDB ext. 474/476

Argentina

Phenol: exemption from prior deposit

Argentine Resolution 749/74 exempts imports of 'phenol' (tariff no. 29.06.01.01) from the prior deposit requirement. **EDB ext. 474/476**

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. 01-222 7877 (extension at end of each notice)

EDB Export Data Branch, Exports Services Division
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' as indicated against each item. The 'Official Journal' is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other Member States' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 4174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY: The texts of the following Regulations and Directive which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

General. Regulation (EEC) 1685/74 amending in particular Regulation (EEC) 2958/73 on the exchange rate applied in agriculture for the Italian lira. (*Official Journal* L176, 30 June 1974)

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Regulation (EEC) 1686/74 fixing for the 1974/75 marketing year the monthly increase in the target and intervention prices for oil seeds. (*Official Journal* L176, 30 June 1974)

Processed agricultural products. Regulation (EEC) 1687/74 extending the term of validity of Regulation (EEC) 1267/69 laying down special provisions applicable to imports into the Community from Greece of goods coming under Regulation (EEC) 1059/69. (*Official Journal* L176, 30 June 1974)

EEC information – Inquiry points at Customs and Excise headquarters

General inquiries on EEC matters which are the concern of HM Customs and Excise may be made to the following telephone extensions:
HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Tel: 01-626 1515

		Extn.
Community Transit	International Customs Division D —Branch 1	
	traders A-K	2263
	traders L-Z	2561
European Communities—general inquiries	International Customs Division D —Branch 4	3055
EEC Free Trade Agreements with EFTA countries	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2385/2165
EEC Mediterranean Agreements, except Greece and Turkey, Anglo-Danish free trade agreement	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2165
EEC Mediterranean Agreements, Greece and Turkey	International Customs Division D —Branch 2	2561
Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement, Channel Islands, Isle of Man	International Customs Division E —Branch 4	2504
Compensatory levies	International Customs Division G —Branch 3	2343/2307
Copies of public notices and customs forms on EEC matters	General Services Division—Unit 4	3079/2069

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

Regulation (EEC) 1693/74 determining the amounts of the variable components and compensatory amounts, and the additional duties applicable, during the third quarter of 1974 to the goods covered by Regulation (EEC) 1059/69. (*Official Journal* L178, 1 July 1974)

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 1688/74 complementing Regulation (EEC) 442/70 laying down detailed rules for the application of the system of offsetting storage costs for sugar. (*Official Journal* L176, 30 June 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1689/74 fixing the accession compensatory amounts for the 1974/75 sugar marketing year. (*Official Journal* L176, 30 June 1974)

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 1708/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 1661/73 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EEC) 228/73 laying down general rules for the system of compensatory amounts for fruit and vegetables. (*Official Journal* L180, 3 July 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1723/74 adopting certain protective measures in respect of imports of peaches. (*Official Journal* L181, 4 July 1974)

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 1710/74 amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) 1162/74 concerning the sale of beef and veal held by the intervention agencies at prices fixed in advance at a standard rate. (*Official Journal* L180, 3 July 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1729/74 supplementing Regulation (EEC) 1302/73 as regards transport charges for beef and veal offered for intervention and extending the period of validity of Regulations (EEC) 196/74 and (EEC) 377/74. (*Official Journal* L182, 5 July 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1768/74 extending the temporary suspension of the issue of import licences for certain beef and veal products. (*Official Journal* L185, 9 July 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1790/74 linking the importation of beef and veal to the sale of meat held by the intervention agencies. (*Official Journal* L187, 11 July 1974)

Tobacco. Directive 74/318/EEC amending Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco. (*Official Journal* L180, 3 July 1974)

Eggs. Regulation (EEC) 1716/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 145/67 laying down rules for calculating the levy and the sluice-gate price for eggs. (*Official Journal* L181, 4 July 1974)

Poultrymeat. Regulation (EEC) 1717/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 146/67 laying down rules for calculating the levy and the sluice-gate price for poultrymeat. (*Official Journal* L181, 4 July 1974)

Rice. Regulation (EEC) 1718/74 determining for the 1974/75 marketing year the threshold prices for husked rice and broken rice and the protective amount to be included in the threshold price for milled rice. (*Official Journal* L181, 4 July 1974)

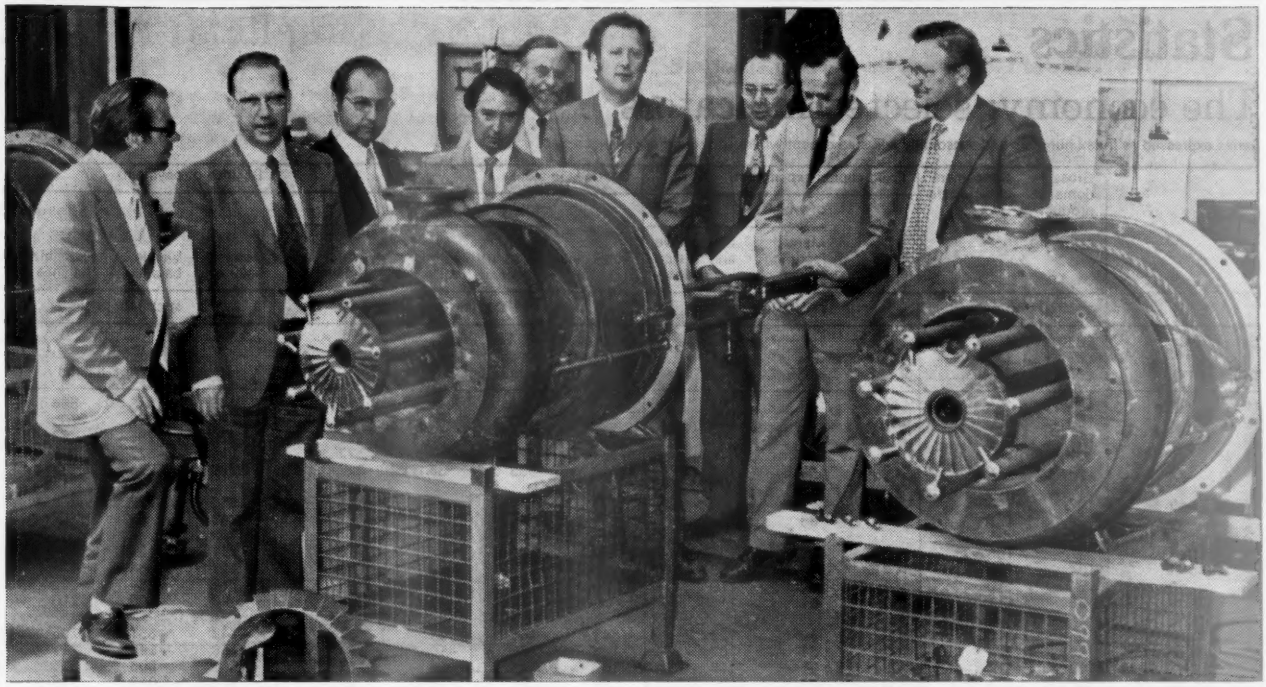
Regulation (EEC) 1719/74 fixing, for the 1974/75 marketing year, the monthly price increases for paddy and husked rice. (*Official Journal* L181, 4 July 1974)

Cereals. Regulation (EEC) 1742/74 fixing the reference prices for hybrid maize for sowing for the 1974/75 marketing year. (*Official Journal* L182, 5 July 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1765/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 1493/71 as regards the calculation of price increases and reductions applicable to intervention in durum wheat, barley, maize and rye. (*Official Journal* L185, 1974)

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 1758/74 amending Regulation (EEC) 1579/70 laying down special conditions for the export of certain cheeses to Spain. (*Official Journal* L183, 6 July 1974)

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 1793/74 concerning aid for the transporta-



A series of HXG 490/49 dual fuel marine burners designed and built by the Combustion Division of Hamworthy Engineering, shown here in course of assembly, are inspected by representatives of boilermakers, shipbuilders and shipowners to whom they are being supplied. From left are Mr. P. Hylkema, Mr. D. Van den Berg (both of Verolme Engineering, Rotterdam), Mr. F. B. Brun (Chantiers de l'Atlantique, St. Nazaire, France), Mr. M. Bonis (S. A. Bonis et Cie, French agents for the Combustion Division's Marine Dept.), Comdr. J. Hodges (Foster Wheeler-John Brown Boilers), Mr. W. Van der Werff (Verolme Engineering), Mr. A. Quemerais (Et. Meccanique, St. Nazaire), Mr. D. Van der Werf (NSU, Holland), and Alan Berrett (managing director, Combustion Division). Twelve dual fuel burners are being supplied for the boilers of two 120,000 cu. m. methane carriers being built at Chantiers de l'Atlantique's yard. One is for the British firm of Ocean Fleets Ltd., a subsidiary of the Ocean Transport and Trading Group, with whom the Union of Dutch Shipowners (NSU) are associated on the technical side of the project. The other is for the Dutch company, Royal Interocean Lines and NSU are also associated with this project. The boilers, of Foster Wheeler-John Brown design, are being built by Verolme Engineering.

tion of quality wines psr of wine-growing zone A. (*Official Journal* L187, 11 July 1974)

Regulation (EEC) 1794/74 laying down general rules governing the distillation of table wines during the period from 15 July to 30 September 1974. (*Official Journal* L187, 11 July 1974)

EEC/PORTUGAL AGREEMENT: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L180, 3 July 1974, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1702/74 on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending the provisions of the exchange of letters of 30 January 1974 relating to Article 3 of the Protocol No. 8 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic.

Further information: Department of Trade, Overseas Tariff and Regulation Section, Export Data Branch, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 408/482/7174 (import duties, taxes, etc., on imports from Portugal into the EEC other than UK), ext. 458/459/460/461 (import duties, taxes, etc., on imports into Portugal); Tariff Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-222 7877, ext. 3713/5544 (imports into the UK from Portugal).

COMMON CUSTOMS TARIFF: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L180, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1709/74 on the classification of goods under subheading 20.06 B I of the Common Customs Tariff.

Further information: HM Customs and Excise, International Customs, Division B, King's Beam House, 39/41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2485.

AIDS TO SHIPBUILDING: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L180, 3 July 1974, contains the text of Directive 74/320/EEC on the extension to 31 December 1974 of the period of validity of Directive 72/273/EEC concerning aids to shipbuilding.

Further information: Department of Industry, Shipbuilding Policy Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-834 4422, ext. 794.

IMPORTS FROM NON-MEMBER STATES: The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L183, 6 July 1974, contains the texts of the following Decisions.

Decision 74/323/EEC authorising Italy not to apply Community treatment to outboard motors and parts thereof, falling within heading No. 84.06 B and D ex II of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Japan, and in free circulation in the other Member States.

Decision 74/324/EEC authorising France not to apply Community treatment to radio-receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorder or reproducer, falling within heading No. 85.15 A III of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Hong Kong, and in free circulation in the other Member States.

EEC Information Unit's new telephone system means speedier inquiry service

The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about the effects of membership of the EEC and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources. A new telephone system has been introduced giving immediate access to several extensions. This should eliminate delays caused by extensions being engaged and provide a better service for callers at any time from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. every weekday.

New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions. The Unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET. The new telephone number is: 01-222 7877, ext. 4301 (six lines).

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,404	9,223	2,129	2,087	series in £ million				series in £ million		
1969	99	98	98	93	92	416	320	42	13	445	−143	588
1970	100	100	100	100	100	257	175	68	38	692	−9	701
1971	101	103	100	92	101	−7	−218	52	21	1,073	285	788
1972	104	109	102	83	111	−394	−498	28	22	114	−677	791
1973	109	114	107	89	116	627	433	38	227	−1,286	−2,375	1,089
1971 3rd qtr.	102	104	101	92	105	−18	67	9	15	380	172	208
4th qtr.	102	105	101	88	102	—	−47	3	21	248	60	188
1972 1st qtr.	101	106	103	88	105	−131	−156	15	−9	71	−121	192
2nd qtr.	104	108	102	84	110	−100	−145	−12	40	112	−64	176
3rd qtr.	104	110	102	81	110	−83	−125	4	−8	−116	−284	163
4th qtr.	106	111	102	81	118	−80	−72	22	−1	+2	−208	210
1973 1st qtr.	109	115	109	88	123	242	168	18	31	−146	−351	205
2nd qtr.	109	113	102	84	107	188	66	−16	154	−188	−399	211
3rd qtr.	110	114	109	91	116	102	46	18	22	−291	−606	315
4th qtr.	109	114	108	93	120	95	99	18	20	−661	−1,019	358
1974 1st qtr.	106	112	109	99	110	−265	−105	2	−64	−979	−1,288	309
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−1.7	+0.1	+2.6	+9.2	+3.1							
on a year earlier	N/C	+3.0	+2.6	+13.0	−4.6							

	Index of industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs					Labour			Trade§	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Index of retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used‡	Index of wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales‡	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)‡	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan 16, 1962		1970	1970	July 31, 1972				Series in	
£m in base year			15,895	thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million	
			monthly averages							monthly averages				
1970	100.0	100.0	99.0	91.4	140.2	6.4	100.0	100.0	78.5	568	2.5	186	658	659
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	737	3.2	129	733	709
1972	102.4	102.0	105.8	138.6	164.3	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	816	3.6	145	761	818
1973	109.8	110.3	110.7	137.3	179.4	9.2	144.1	123.2•	115.5	581	2.6	304	953	1,151
1972 3rd qtr.	103.0	102.4	107.2	139	165.4	6.5	109.4	115.6	102.2	808	3.6	147	684	779
4th qtr.	105.9	105.7	109.5	144	169.4	7.7	115.6	118.0	107.8	750	3.3	179	871	940
1973 1st qtr.	110.4	110.7	111.8	152	172.4	8.0	126.0	119.5	108.8	667	2.9	228	878	995
2nd qtr.	109.4	109.4	108.0	136	177.9	9.3	133.4	120.1•	112.6	605	2.6	289	931	1,064
3rd qtr.	110.3	110.9	110.5	143	180.2	9.2	150.5	124.2	118.4	562	2.5	334	995	1,197
4th qtr.	109.2	110.3	112.3	119	186.8	10.3	167.2	129.1	120.9	489	2.2	364	1,008	1,348
1974 1st qtr.	103.0	105.3	110.1	103	101.4†	12.9	206.4	138.4	124.9	543	2.4	285	1,124	1,557
2nd qtr.			107.1	105	107.5	15.8	209.2 p	148.6 p	130.8	552	2.4	309	1,292	1,748
1973 June	110.1	111.1	110.1	135	178 9	9.3	137.2	121.3	115.6	593	2.6	304	960	1,198
July	110.4	110.7	110.6	147	179.7	9.4	145.1	122.7	116.0	581	2.6	324	961	1,145
Aug.	109.7	110.4	110.8	153	180.2	8.9	152.4	124.1	119.7	563	2.5	330	980	1,206
Sept.	110.8	111.6	110.2	129	181.8	9.3	154.1	125.8	120.0	542	2.4	349	1,043	1,239
Oct.	111.3	112.0	111.7	127	185.4	9.9	161.4	127.7	120.3	512	2.3	363	982	1,385
Nov.	110.1	111.8	112.3	126	186.8	10.3	165.5	129.0	121.0	486	2.2	368	1,022	1,304
Dec.	106 3	107.1	112.9	103	188.2	10.6	174.8	130.6	122.0	470	2.1	362	1,019	1,354
1974 Jan.	100.0	100.8	109.5	93	191.8	12.0	203.0	134.1	123.7	535	2.4	304	1,012	1,396
Feb.	102.9	106.8	110.3	109	101.7†	13.2	207.0	138.5	124.7	549	2.4	278	1,153	1,597
Mar.	106.1	108.3	110.4	106	102.6	13.5	209.1	142.2	126.4	545	2.4	274	1,208	1,678
Apr.	108.4	109.9	107.9	96	106.1	15.2	209.9	146.3	127.0	546	2.4	297	1,254	1,672
May	108.6	108.7	105.4	105	107.6	15.9	210.0 p	148.8 p	130.7	548	2.4	314	1,278 p	1,759 p
June			102.0 p	115	108.7	16.5	207.8 p	150.7 p	134.6	561	2.5	317	1,345 p	1,813 p
July										582 p	2.6 p	317		
% change last qtr. on prev. qtr.	+4.5	+3.9	−2.7	+ 2.6	+5.9		+1.3	+7.4	+4.2	+3.1		+11.8	+14.9	+12.3
on a year earlier	−2.3	−0.9	−0.7	−22.4	+15.9		+56.8	+23.7	+14.8	−4.9		+3.2	+38.8	+64.3

(‡) Not seasonally adjusted. (§) On a balance of payments basis. • After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT. † Base of index Jan 1974 = 100.

Index of retail prices for June

The index of retail prices for all items for 18 June 1974 was 108.7 (15 January 1974 = 100). This represents an increase of 1.0 per cent on May (107.6), of 16.5 per cent on June 1973 and of 12.5 per cent on October 1973.

The rise of the all items index in June was due to rises in the average prices of electricity, potatoes, some other fresh vegetables and some other goods and services. There was a fall in the average price of eggs. The movements for the main groups of the index are shown in Table 2.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	⊕ fifty-three week
p provisional	period

TABLE 1 Rates of change

	All items				All items except seasonal food			
	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Index 16 January 1962 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 12 months	Index 15 January 1974 = 100	Index 16 January 1962 = 100	Percentage change over 1 month	Percentage change over 6 months
1974 January	100.0	191.8	+1.9	+12.0	100.0	189.4	+1.8	+6.5
February	101.7	195.1	+1.7	+13.2	101.9	193.0	+1.9	+7.8
March	102.6	196.8	+0.9	+13.5	102.8	194.7	+0.9	+7.9
April	106.1	203.5	+3.4	+15.2	106.3	201.3	+3.4	+9.7
May	107.6	206.4	+1.4	+16.0	107.7	204.0	+1.3	+10.3
June	108.7	208.5	+1.0	+16.5	108.6	205.7	+0.8	+10.5

TABLE 2 General index of retail prices

	Indices (15 January 1974 = 100)		Percentage change over the month
	21 May 1974	18 June 1974	
All items	107.6	108.7	+ 1.0
All items excluding food	108.7	109.6	+ 0.8
Food	104.5	105.9	+ 1.3
Seasonal food	106.9	111.1	+ 3.9
Other food	103.9	104.7	+ 0.8
Alcoholic drink	110.5	110.7	+ 0.2
Tobacco	121.6	121.6	NIL
Housing	107.6	108.1	+ 0.5
Fuel and light	106.2	109.6	+ 3.2
Durable household goods	105.9	106.6	+ 0.7
Clothing and footwear	108.3	109.0	+ 0.6
Transport and vehicles	110.2	110.9	+ 0.6
Miscellaneous goods	108.0	109.6	+ 1.5
Services	104.7	105.7	+ 1.0
Meals out	106.1	107.5	+ 1.3

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during June 1974 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	1,987	–	1,987
Over £100 but under £1,000	88	–	88
£1,000 but under £10,000	911	–	911
£10,000 but under £50,000	279	–	279
£50,000 but under £100,000	22	–	22
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	33	–	33
£1,000,000 and over	9	–	9
Total number	3,329	–	3,329
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	29,037	–	29,037

COMPANIES REGISTERED IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1973 AND 1974

	1973		1974	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	4,666	8,050	4,758	27,824
February	5,919	7,762	2,870	81,582
March	6,310	21,762	3,393	21,763
April	5,617	12,632	3,679	50,557
May	5,331	9,111	3,878	36,111
June	4,752	30,575	3,329	29,037
July	5,245	17,291		
August	6,371	16,843		
September	4,988	28,337		
October	5,945	11,918		
November	6,132	36,871		
December	5,330	22,843		
Total	66,606	223,995		

Paper and board production

United Kingdom production of paper and board in the four weeks 28 April-25 May was 382.4 thousand tonnes. This is a 1.1 per cent increase over the corresponding period of 1973. However, it is fractionally lower than output during the preceding four weeks, which has been revised downwards to 382.9 thousand tonnes in the light of the latest returns. The monthly average January-May 1973 was 397.1 thousand tonnes, compared with 392.5 thousand tonnes for the same months of 1974. In 1973 production of both paper and board increased substantially in May compared with April.

Total paper production in May 1974 rose by 5,000 tonnes compared with April but that for board fell by 5.5 thousand tonnes.

The index of industrial production for the paper and board industry (calculated by weighting together figures of gross production of the different grades of paper and board by estimates of value-added appropriate to each grade) was 100.2 for May, after seasonal adjustment (1970 = 100). The corresponding revised figure for April was 103.4.

The latest figures are:

	Production of paper and board			Index of industrial production for paper and board (1970 = 100)	
	Gross production (in '000 tonnes)				
	Total	Paper	Board	Unadjusted	Adjusted for normal seasonal fluctuations
1972	4,374	3,166	1,208	92.7	92.7
1973	4,708	3,430	1,278	99.9	99.9
1973 1st quarter	1,247	905	342	105.1	101.5
2nd quarter	1,221	887	334	103.3	99.6
3rd quarter	1,059	778	281	89.8	98.6
4th quarter	1,181	860	321	101.2	99.5
1974 1st quarter	1,197	871	327	101.1	97.7
1973 October*	97.7	71.6	26.1	108.2	101.1
November*	95.6	69.8	25.8	105.2	98.8
December*	81.6	59.0	22.6	90.3	98.8
1974 January*	86.0	62.5	23.5	93.7	90.6
February*	95.0	68.6	26.4	104.4	99.8
March*	94.6	69.2	25.4	105.2	102.9
April*	95.7	68.7	27.0	104.5	103.4
May*	95.6	69.9	25.6	106.7	100.2

* Weekly rate during four or five week periods.

Further details on production of various grades of paper and board, together with wholesale price indices and other statistical information on the paper and board industry have now been published in Business Monitor PM 481, Paper and paper making materials, May 1974.

Domestic furniture: manufacturers' deliveries and outstanding orders

For several years the Department of Industry and its predecessors have conducted a monthly inquiry among manufacturers of the total value of their deliveries and of outstanding orders on hand of domestic furniture. The inquiry is restricted to establishments employing 25 or more employees and covers domestic furniture including upholstery manufactured by the respondents, ie it excludes goods which are only factored, imported or assembled. The return is made at current wholesale values, net of VAT, and where for orders on hand no firm selling price has been agreed, an estimate is made on the basis of current net selling prices. The orders on hand include all outstanding orders booked but not delivered which are regarded by the respondent as firm, whether or not they are the subject of a contract, and are net of cancellations. Planned production for stock and subsequent delivery is excluded.

The Department also conducts a detailed quarterly inquiry into sales of all furniture, in which domestic furniture is separately distinguished covering all establishments of 25 or more employees. This provides a check on the individual monthly returns of deliveries and a means of grossing up the monthly data to give estimates for deliveries and orders outstanding for all establishments within the scope of the inquiry. It is possible from the figures to calculate estimates of the value of net new orders received in the month. This is done by adjusting deliveries made during the month by the increase or decrease in outstanding orders. This figure might be expected to give the earliest indications of changes in activity in the industry but should be treated with caution since it is derived from the estimated figures and will have a wider margin of error than the series on deliveries and outstanding orders. Using the Wholesale Price Index for domestic furniture (currently based on 1970 = 100), the values at current prices can be deflated to constant prices and monthly indices calculated for the series.

The three series described above, which were formerly based on 1963 = 100, have recently been rebased on 1970 = 100 in line with other economic series (eg index of industrial production). Wholesale price indices based on 1970 = 100 are available running from January 1968 and consistent constant price series have been calculated back to that date. For earlier years, wholesale price indices are based on 1963 = 100 but an index for 1968 is also available on this base. It is therefore possible by linking together the indices on this year to construct a constant price series running back for longer periods. This has been done to January 1963 but the data before 1968 cannot be regarded as wholly consistent with that for later years.

The series all show marked seasonal patterns which if unadjusted can obscure the trends developing in the data. The three series of constant price indices have all been run through a seasonal adjustment programme (Shiskin Seasonal Adjustment VI.O) which confirmed the presence of stable seasonality, and adjusted series calculated. In Table 1, quarterly data from January 1968 and monthly data from January 1973 are given for deliveries, outstanding orders on hand and net new orders received both in value at current prices and as seasonally adjusted index numbers.

The feature of the period covered by the table was the very high levels of activity achieved during 1973. Following a period of slack demand from 1968 to 1970, orders began to pick up during 1970 and the balance of orders outstanding rose each quarter from the first quarter of 1970 to the second quarter of 1973. The flow of new orders reached its peak in the first six months of 1973 and for the next nine months to March 1974 stayed reasonably steady at a level some two-thirds below this peak, although there is evidence of a downward trend in the seasonally adjusted index from December onwards.

The level of deliveries responded quickly and substantially to the increase in demand from 1970 onwards (deliveries in 1973 were over 55 per cent higher than in 1970) but was still outstripped by the pressure of demand. The seasonally adjusted index fell in the fourth quarter, partly because the December figure was low. Before allowing for seasonal adjustment deliveries were at their maximum in October and November 1973 and it is possible that the normal seasonal adjustment factors were not altogether appropriate during these exceptional conditions of high demand. The deliveries so far in 1974 have been affected by three-day working in the early part of the year and this is likely to influence the figures for some time. In constant prices, deliveries have been lower each month in 1974 compared with the corresponding month of 1973 and for the five months to the end of May were 16 per cent lower than this same period a year earlier. The seasonally adjusted index, however, is still running at levels not achieved until the second half of 1972. The balance of orders outstanding is still high in relation to historic levels and to the current rate of deliveries, although some two-thirds down in real terms from its maximum level reached in June 1973. But the exceptional circumstances of recent months may have induced a change, either temporary or permanent, in the pattern of ordering, the nature of which is not yet fully clear.

TABLE 1 Domestic furniture: manufacturers' deliveries and orders

Index 1970 = 100 — Value: £ million in current prices

		Deliveries during period		Orders on hand at end of period		Net new orders received during period	
		Value	Seasonally adjusted index	Value	Seasonally adjusted index	Value	Seasonally adjusted index
1968	1st quarter	45.6	99.3	28.9	101.3	52.5	105.1
	2nd quarter	42.1	92.3	23.5	87.1	36.7	80.7
	3rd quarter	41.9	96.0	23.8	78.3	32.3	83.7
	4th quarter	51.8	97.8	19.7	70.3	47.7	90.2
1969	1st quarter	44.5	95.3	19.1	68.9	43.9	86.9
	2nd quarter	41.6	88.4	18.5	69.4	40.9	88.1
	3rd quarter	41.2	91.3	24.4	75.6	47.1	90.3
	4th quarter	50.7	93.3	20.3	68.5	46.6	84.6
1970	1st quarter	42.8	89.8	23.4	77.5	46.0	87.2
	2nd quarter	46.9	100.8	26.4	93.8	49.9	102.5
	3rd quarter	46.6	102.8	38.7	114.4	58.9	106.1
	4th quarter	59.5	106.5	39.8	123.6	60.6	104.5
1971	1st quarter	57.4	112.4	40.5	124.0	58.2	100.2
	2nd quarter	55.5	110.9	41.3	133.8	56.2	105.3
	3rd quarter	55.8	114.5	49.5	135.8	64.0	105.9
	4th quarter	69.6	119.4	52.4	150.7	72.4	116.2
1972	1st quarter	66.2	119.7	58.1	165.4	71.9	117.8
	2nd quarter	70.9	130.1	60.6	183.0	73.5	127.2
	3rd quarter	70.1	134.1	86.0	219.1	95.5	146.9
	4th quarter	92.9	138.9	100.6	262.9	107.5	158.6
1973	1st quarter	100.6	161.5	132.9	352.7	132.9	205.8
	2nd quarter	99.8	157.3	142.5	385.1	109.4	173.9
	3rd quarter	97.4	159.4	133.1	308.9	88.0	122.0
	4th quarter	109.0	142.2	122.7	284.7	98.5	131.0
1974	1st quarter	96.9	132.6	126.8	277.2	101.0	128.2
1973	January	32.7	156.7	119.3	329.1	51.4	262.8
	February	31.8	160.0	129.0	328.0	41.6	169.0
	March	36.0	168.0	132.9	352.7	39.9	185.7
	April	29.7	156.4	139.8	379.5	36.6	182.8
	May	35.3	153.0	141.7	373.5	37.3	170.6
	June	34.8	162.6	142.5	385.1	35.6	168.4
	July	29.1	162.2	138.0	349.2	24.6	107.5
	August	30.5	155.8	140.6	322.4	33.1	134.0
	September	37.8	160.3	133.1	308.9	30.3	124.6
	October	40.6	146.5	128.5	292.6	36.1	131.1
	November	40.0	146.8	123.7	272.2	35.2	124.7
	December	28.3	133.4	122.7	284.7	27.3	137.1
1974	January	31.1	126.8	120.0	281.8	28.4	124.7
	February	30.2	127.5	130.9	278.5	41.1	139.8
	March	35.7	143.5	126.8	277.2	31.5	120.1
	April	32.8	135.0	120.6	267.8	26.7	109.1
	May	34.0	131.2	117.8	262.2	31.1	120.1

TABLE 2 Work on hand at individual establishments at end of April 1974

Number of months work on hand at current levels of deliveries	% of number of establishments	% of establishments weighted by deliveries	Cumulative % of number of establishments	Cumulative % of establishments weighted by deliveries
under ½ month	23.8	10.8	23.8	10.8
½ month and under 1 month	21.8	13.9	45.6	24.7
1 month and under 1½ months	15.5	16.2	61.1	40.9
1½ months and under 2 months	10.4	27.0	71.5	68.0
2 months and under 3 months	7.8	7.9	79.3	75.9
3 months and under 4 months	4.7	5.6	83.9	81.5
4 months and under 5 months	4.1	3.9	88.1	85.4
5 months and under 6 months	1.0	0.1	89.1	85.5
6 months and under 12 months	7.8	12.0	96.9	97.5
12 months and over	3.1	2.5	100.0	100.0

TABLE 3 Wooden furniture and upholstery: Deliveries, exports and imports

Value £million at current prices

	Total deliveries by establishments of 25 or more employees			Estimated total deliveries by all establishments	Exports	Imports	UK market	Exports as share of total deliveries	Imports of share of UK market
	Domestic furniture	Other furniture	Total						
1971 1st quarter	57.4	18.9	76.3	94.2	3.5	2.5	93.2	3.7	2.7
2nd quarter	55.5	19.6	75.1	92.7	4.1	2.5	91.1	4.4	2.7
3rd quarter	55.8	20.8	76.6	94.6	4.1	3.0	93.5	4.3	3.2
4th quarter	69.6	24.2	93.8	115.8	5.1	3.1	113.8	4.4	2.7
1972 1st quarter	66.2	22.3	88.5	109.3	4.7	4.0	108.6	4.3	3.7
2nd quarter	70.9	23.4	94.3	116.4	5.9	4.4	114.9	5.1	3.8
3rd quarter	70.1	23.7	93.8	115.8	4.5	4.8	116.1	3.9	4.1
4th quarter	92.9	25.2	118.1	145.8	6.3	7.0	146.5	4.3	8
1973 1st quarter	100.6	26.3	126.9	156.7	5.6	8.1	159.2	3.6	5.1
2nd quarter	99.8	22.8	122.6	151.4	7.2	9.2	153.4	4.8	6.0
3rd quarter	97.4	24.2	121.6	150.1	6.7	9.2	152.6	4.5	6.0
4th quarter	109.0	26.6	135.6	167.4	11.7	9.9	165.6	7.0	6.0
Annual Totals									
1971	238.3	83.5	321.8	397.2	16.8	11.1	391.6	4.2	2.8
1972	300.1	94.5	394.7	487.3	21.4	20.2	486.1	4.4	4.2
1973	406.8	99.9	506.7	625.6	31.2	36.4	630.8	5.0	4.8

Figures for the industry as a whole conceal variations in the performance of individual manufacturers and establishments. Comparing the balance of outstanding orders with the level of deliveries in the previous month will give only a very approximate measure of an individual establishment's work on hand and different circumstances will apply in different sectors of the industry. Nevertheless, an analysis of establishments by the number of months work outstanding (calculated as the ratio of orders outstanding to deliveries) has some merit in indicating the disparity in order books from firm to firm (see Table 2). Although a large proportion of establishments have very short order books (over 45 per cent had under one month's work on hand at the end of April at the rate of deliveries during that month), these were in the main comparatively small units and if weighted by the level of current deliveries account for under a quarter of the total. The distribution is very skew and in these circumstances the use of the overall average can be misleading as an indication of the position of individual firms. At the end of April 1974, the total order book estimated from the returns submitted by individual establishments was £120.6 million at current prices with deliveries during the month of £32.8 million. This might indicate an order book of very nearly four months' work. From Table 2, however, it can be seen that five-sixths of establishments had orders on hand below this level and only one-sixth above. Some individual units had apparent order books of over two years work but these and others in the final group in the table are likely to have been affected by peculiarly low levels of deliveries in April. Similarly some of the entries in the first group will be influenced by exceptionally high levels of deliveries. A better indicator of the average level of demand in the industry would be given by using the median which is the level at which there are as many individuals below as above. This figure is 1.2 months and is a more realistic assessment of the typical level of work on hand than the simple average which is unduly influenced by a comparatively small number of larger firms with exceptionally long order books.

Information on deliveries of all furniture derived from the quarterly inquiry is shown in Table 3, together with data on import and export trade. As it is not possible to separate domestic from non-domestic furniture with certainty in the trade accounts, this table covers both these sectors of the furniture industry. The quarterly inquiry, being limited to establishments of 25 or more employees is not directly comparable with the trade data which cover all imports and exports. An estimate of the extent of the coverage of the quarterly inquiry is available from the proportion of employment in the furniture and upholstery industry covered by firms within the inquiry; this is around 81 per cent. Using this factor, estimates have been made of the total value of deliveries of furniture by all firms quarterly from 1971. This assumes the same average level of sales per employee among firms with less than 25 employees as with more and hence there may be some bias in the estimate. Although the absolute values of the figures should therefore be treated with caution the trend over time revealed by the figures should be more reliable.

Estimates of the total UK market up to and including the last quarter of 1973, the latest for which export and import figures are fully available, have been made as total deliveries by all establishments less exports plus imports. The assumption has also been made that delays in the recording of imports and exports by Customs are not substantial, and so caution in the use and interpretation of the figures must again be exercised.

The series of monthly data on domestic furniture deliveries and orders from January 1963 to date can be obtained from the Department of Industry, Room 107, Dean Bradley House, London SW1P 2AG (tel. 01-212 6966). The data cover deliveries during the month, orders on hand at the end of the month and apparent net new orders received during the month in current values, and in index form both unadjusted and seasonally adjusted.

Business Monitor

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PQ 354 Scientific and industrial instruments and systems for fourth quarter 1973
PQ 365.2 Broadcast receiving and sound reproducing equipment for first quarter 1974
PQ 369.4 Electric lamps, electric light fittings, wiring accessories, etc., for first quarter 1974
PQ 381.2 Trailers, caravans and freight containers for fourth quarter 1973
PQ 392 Cutlery, spoons, forks and plated tableware (including safety razors and blades) for first quarter 1974
PQ 399.3 Safes, locks, latches, keys and springs for first quarter 1974
PQ 416 Rope, twine and net for first quarter 1974
PQ 464 Cement for first quarter 1974
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Annual

1971 Census of Production Reports (price including postage shown in brackets):

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Exceptionally copies can be purchased over the counter at either the Department of Industry Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, or at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Department's Central Library, which will supply prices on request (tel. 01-222 7877, ext. 3038) or the Department's Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633-56111, ext. 2793; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of titles of Business Monitors is available on application.

Inquiries about the distribution of Business Monitors may be made to the Business Statistics Office (ext. 2700) whose address and telephone number appear above.

Foreign arrivals in the United Kingdom during May

During May 1974 541,000 foreign visitors, including all travellers from EEC countries, arrived in the United Kingdom, 2 per cent less than in May 1973 according to the Department of Trade and the British Tourist Authority. (The figures exclude visitors from the Irish Republic and Commonwealth citizens.)

So far this year, the figures for arrivals have moved erratically from month to month. For the first five months together, the number of arrivals is about the same as in the same period of last year. Within the total there has been a fall in the number of visitors from the USA, of over 25 per cent, offset by rises of between 5 and 10 per cent in arrivals from the EEC, the rest of Western Europe and other foreign countries.

Travel expenditure

Estimates of travel expenditure and certain other information for 1973 will be published shortly in the fourth quarter 1973 issue of Business Monitor M6; Overseas Travel and Tourism (HMSO). Overseas visitors to the United Kingdom in 1973 are estimated to have spent £680 million; expenditure abroad by United Kingdom residents in 1973 is estimated at £674 million, leaving a small net surplus on the travel account of the balance of payments. Quarterly figures are given in Table 2, including first estimates for January to March, 1974.

The figures in Table 1 are limited to foreign nationals, excluding Commonwealth citizens and citizens of the Irish Republic.

For non-EEC countries visitors entering for a stay of under one year are shown while, for EEC countries, total arrivals are shown irrespective of their purposes of visit or length of stay. This follows the entry of the United Kingdom into the EEC, since when citizens of Community countries are generally admitted to the United Kingdom without having to state their purpose of visit, or expected length of stay.

Seasonally adjusted figures: Simple comparisons of monthly figures between one year and another, or between adjacent months can be misleading. The seasonally adjusted figures provide a better basis for comparison with other months, or for judging current trends. In estimating the seasonal adjustments allowance has been made for changes in the seasonal pattern, which have been in the direction of a spreading of the tourist season, with some reduction in the summer peak relative to the rest of the year. Adjustment was also made for the effect of the varying date of Easter on numbers of Western European visitors.

Table 1 Foreign arrivals Thousands per month

	Total arrivals from EEC countries (excluding Irish Republic)		Foreign visitors from non-EEC countries							
			Rest of Western Europe (non-EEC)		United States		Other foreign countries		Total non-EEC countries	
1967	126		30		70		23		123	
1968	144		34		73		29		136	
1969	174		40		95		35		170	
1970	199		47		117		41		205	
1971	214		53		129		46		228	
1972	232		59		134		51		244	
1973	265		70		131		62		263	
	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA	UA	SA
1973										
January	139	258	35	64	60	143	34	55	129	262
February	132	265	36	67	51	145	29	56	116	268
March	170	265	44	65	88	142	46	69	178	276
April	334	242	78	76	129	155	49	61	256	292
May	266	242	56	58	167	137	61	61	284	256
June	299	259	88	67	196	125	73	61	357	253
July	535	253	142	66	228	115	106	61	476	242
August	408	256	89	71	197	108	101	60	387	239
September	278	263	74	71	181	123	91	63	346	257
October	242	289	73	72	122	127	64	63	259	262
November	186	319	63	86	83	128	46	73	192	287
December	186	264	57	72	66	120	47	64	170	256
1974										
January	141	262	38	69	50	122	40	66	128	257
February	132	267	38	70	42	122	35	68	115	260
March	216	271	53	69	68	112	52	76	173	257
April	320	263	79	80	95	116	52	64	226	260
May	295	272	63	65	121	101	62	61	246	227
Jan.-May 1973	1,041		250		494		220		964	
Jan.-May 1974	1,104		272		375		240		887	

Total arrivals = all persons admitted, including long stay and short stay visitors from EEC countries
Foreign visitors = all persons entering for visits of under one year from non-EEC countries excluding Commonwealth countries.
UA = unadjusted. SA = seasonally adjusted. Source: Home Office

Table 2 Overseas Earnings and Expenditure £ million

	Earnings from overseas visitors to the UK		Expenditure by UK residents overseas		Balance
1971	489		439		50
1972	550		527		23
1973 p	680		674		6
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted
1972 1st quarter	81	137	72	131	6
2nd quarter	129	135	120	129	6
3rd quarter	210	136	238	130	6
4th quarter	130	142	97	137	5
1973 1st quarter p	98	154	93	152	2
2nd quarter p	158	166	159	159	7
3rd quarter p	266	180	302	180	0
4th quarter p	158	180	128	183	−3
1974 1st quarter p	113	178	105	173	+6

Source:
International Passenger Survey.
p Provisional.

Index of industrial production in May

The provisional estimate index of production for May 1974, prepared by the Central Statistical Office, is 108.6 (seasonally adjusted). For manufacturing industry alone the figure is 108.7.

For the three months March 1974 to May 1974, it is provisionally estimated that production as a whole was 4.5 per cent higher than the figures for the preceding three months, December 1973 to February 1974; for manufacturing industry alone there was an increase of 3.9 per cent.

The average index numbers of the latest three months and the previous three months shown at the foot of the table give a general guide to the changes which have taken place in the output of the major groups in recent months.

Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted

1970 = 100

	Total all industries	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries													
			Total	Food, drink and tobacco				Chemicals and allied industries	Engineering and allied industries							
				Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products		Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1969	99.7	104.9	99.4	98.6	99.6	96.8	92.1	95.0	99.8	97.0	92.4	97.1	94.8	105.9	104.1
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	100.4	99.7	99.6	100.7	100.1	101.7	103.4	102.2	99.1	100.1	100.8	102.6	96.6	98.5	93.3
1972	102.4	84.0	102.0	105.0	104.2	106.4	102.6	108 0	99.4	95.1	93.1	110.3	91.8	101.6	94.2
1973	109.8	93.6	110.3	109.3	108.4	114.0	110.0	120.9	107.5	104.6	101.3	126.2	95.1	101.6	102.6
1971 2nd qtr.	100.7	102.9	100.2	100.9	100.5	101.4	104.5	101.1	100.5	102.4	101.0	100.9	96.9	101.3	95.8
3rd qtr.	100.4	101.4	99.3	100.5	99.9	101.6	101.2	101.1	99.4	99.5	99.7	104.2	95.2	100.2	93.0
4th qtr.	100.2	92.0	98.8	100.8	100.0	102.0	105.7	104.9	97.6	96.8	99.9	105.6	91.9	96.5	90.8
1972 1st qtr.	98.1	45.6	98.5	104.9	102.8	108.4	97.4	104.1	97.2	98.0	92.1	107.0	90.4	94.8	89.1
2nd qtr.	102.8	95.7	101.3	104.7	103.5	106.6	100.8	108.1	98.1	94.1	90.6	107.5	93.0	100.4	94.2
3rd qtr.	103.0	95.0	102.4	105.2	104.9	105.7	106.6	107.4	99.8	92.8	96.1	111.5	91.5	103.1	96.7
4th qtr.	105.9	99.7	105.7	105.1	105.4	104.6	105.5	112.6	102.4	95.6	93.7	115.1	92.2	108.1	96.8
1973 1st qtr.	110.4	99.6	110.7	108.4	106.6	111.4	107.2	120.0	108.0	105.0	102.6	127.8	93.9	102.0	102.0
2nd qtr.	109.4	95.9	109.4	109.5	106.9	113.9	107.3	119.4	105.5	100.5	100.4	125.4	94.6	98.5	104.3
3rd qtr.	110.3	94.2	110.9	110.1	105.6	117.7	114.7	121.2	108.9	106.6	100.9	125.9	95.8	103.6	104.8
4th qtr.	109.2	84.7	109.7	108.9	106.3	113.1	111.0	123.1	107.7	106.5	101.4	125.6	96.0	102.3	99.3
1974 1st qtr.	103.0	55.6	105.3	111.0	105.6	120.0	103.0	128.1	102.9	104.9	100.2	124.0	85.6	88.6	97.4
1973 Aug	109.7	92	110.4	110	107	115	120	120	109	106	101	126	96	105	103
Sept	110.8	95	111.6	111	106	120	112	124	109	108	101	126	96	103	102
Oct.	111.3	94	112.0	111	108	116	115	126	110	108	102	127	95	107	99
Nov.	110.1	84	111.8	109	107	112	111	126	109	108	103	127	97	101	103
Dec.	106.3	77	107.1	107	104	111	107	117	105	103	99	123	96	98	96
1974 Jan.	100.0	69	100.8	113	105	126	100	128	98	101	97	119	82	81	92
Feb.	102.9	41	106.8	112	107	120	102	130	105	107	102	127	86	92	98
Mar.	106.1	57	108.3	109	105	114	107	127	106	106	102	126	89	93	102
Apr.	108.4	86	109.9	112	105	124	111	131	107	106	102	126	97	93	107
May	108.6	88	108.7	111	104	122	110	132	108	104	108	125	98	100	108
Dec.-Feb. (av.)	103.1	62	104.9	111	105	119	103	124	103	104	99	123	88	90	95
Mar.-May (av.)	107.7	77	109.0	111	105	120	109	130	107	105	104	126	95	95	106

	Manufacturing industries (continued)													Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc.							
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc.	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc.	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1969	100.3	100.4	100.0	100.4	100.2	103.0	100.4	103.7	102.7	105.2	99.7	99.3	99.5	102.0	96.2
1970	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	91.4	89.4	97.7	102.3	100.7	103.0	105.4	107.7	106.4	109.8	103.0	97.3	100.6	102.9	103.9
1972	90.8	89.2	95.7	104.6	103.0	104.5	107.7	114.2	113.7	115.1	113.5	101.9	104.6	105.2	111.2
1973	99.5	97.3	106.1	109.6	108.1	101.0	113.8	126.3	125.0	128.2	130.2	112.8	111.3	107.5	117.8
1971 2nd qtr.	91.4	88.7	99.8	102.4	100.4	101.3	106.6	107.1	104.6	111.1	100.3	97.7	101.9	102.1	102.5
3rd qtr.	88.0	85.2	96.8	102.2	100.5	106.4	105.1	107.5	105.8	110.2	101.8	97.2	99.9	103.2	105.8
4th qtr.	84.7	81.7	94.1	102.2	100.7	105.2	104.9	108.7	108.3	109.4	106.5	97.3	100.6	105.3	108.0
1972 1st qtr.	81.3	79.2	87.9	100.3	96.9	103.1	107.0	105.5	106.8	103.5	110.8	98.2	97.7	106.9	103.1
2nd qtr.	91.1	91.1	91.3	104.1	102.8	103.5	106.9	115.5	114.2	117.6	113.9	101.1	103.1	107.6	111.7
3rd qtr.	91.8	90.5	95.9	105.9	105.1	104.4	107.7	112.7	112.5	113.0	111.5	103.0	106.2	101.6	115.2
4th qtr.	98.9	96.1	107.6	107.9	107.3	106.9	109.4	123.1	121.2	126.2	117.7	105.5	111.2	104.5	114.7
1973 1st qtr.	100.7	98.1	109.0	110.4	110.8	102.3	110.6	127.6	131.7	121.3	139.9	109.6	113.8	110.1	114.2
2nd qtr.	98.9	96.7	105.8	112.0	110.3	102.2	116.8	126.2	124.0	129.6	129.8	110.5	112.9	108.3	118.1
3rd qtr.	98.8	96.6	105.7	107.5	105.6	99.1	112.4	126.4	122.9	131.8	127.5	116.2	108.8	107.6	117.9
4th qtr.	99.4	98.0	104.1	108.5	105.6	100.0	115.6	124.9	121.5	130.2	123.5	114.9	109.7	104.0	121.1
1974 1st qtr.	90.5	85.7	105.6	97.4	95.5	88.5	102.4	114.6	104.8	129.9	114.6	107.6	99.2	99.3	110.8
1973 Aug.	96	94	100	107	105	99	113	127	124	130	124	115	109		116
Sept.	104	100	116	109	108	99	113	124	119	131	130	117	107		118
Oct.	99	99	97	109	105	102	118	127	124	132	127	115	113		128
Nov.	101	99	108	111	108	102	120	127	123	135	130	116	110		118
Dec.	98	96	107	105	104	98	109	120	118	124	113	114	106		117
1974 Jan.	85	81	99	90	87	84	96	108	98	122	107	102	93		110
Feb.	92	87	108	98	96	90	103	112	103	127	116	111	96		105
Mar.	94	89	109	105	104	92	109	124	113	141	121	110	109		117
Apr.	91	86	105	109	105	95	118	128	119	143	115	111	113		116
May	85	81	95	102	99	94	112	121	115	130	108	111	108		128
Dec.-Feb. (av.)	92	88	105	98	96	91	103	113	106	124	112	109	98		111
Mar.-May (av.)	90	85	103	105	103	94	113	124	116	138	115	111	110		120

Energy trends: coal recovery slow but stocks rise

(Report by the Department of Energy)

In May inland energy consumption was again 5 per cent below the level of a year earlier (Table 1).

In June coal production was 9½ per cent lower than a year before; the decline affecting both deep-mined and opencast output (Table 5). Productivity remained below the level of a year earlier, but for the third successive month recruitment exceeded wastage and there was a small net increase in colliery manpower (Table 6).

Inland coal consumption in June (Table 7) was 3 per cent down on a year ago, with consumption at power stations nearly 4½ per cent down but that at coke ovens only 1 per cent lower than in June 1973. Total recorded coal stocks continued to rise compared with the previous month (Table 8); power station stocks reached more than 11 million tons at end-June but this was still more than 7 million tons lower than a year ago.

Supply of natural gas in May (Table 9) was over 20 per cent higher than a year before. In the first quarter of 1974 sales of gas were 23 per cent higher than in the last quarter of 1973 and 24 per cent up on a year earlier, with sales to the industrial market 39 per cent higher than a year before (Table 13).

Electricity sent out by the UK public supply system in May was less than 3 per cent below the level of a year before (Table 10). Electricity sales in the first quarter of 1974 were 3½ per cent lower than in the last quarter of 1973 and just over 10 per cent down on the first quarter of 1973. Domestic sales in the first quarter of 1974 were slightly above those of a year earlier while sales to industry were 19 per cent down (Table 13).

Oil refinery throughput in May (Table 14) continued at a higher level than in the corresponding month last year with total output of finished products up by 12 per cent. Output of gas/diesel oils was over 15 per cent higher, while output of motor spirit was only 3 per cent up (representing an overall drop in its yield from crude oil). Inland deliveries of petroleum products (Table 15) were 12 per cent lower in May 1974 than a year before with the greatest fall in gas/diesel oils for non-transport use (—14 per cent) and fuel oils (—20 per cent) – the latter product was particularly depressed due to the low use by power stations.

Oil stocks held by oil companies (Table 16) rose further in June to reach 24.7 million tons at the end of that month – about 106 days supply measured against estimates for consumption in the months ahead.

Note

Figures for the latest periods are liable to revision.

TABLE 1 Inland energy consumption: primary fuel input basis

Million tons of coal or coal equivalent

	Total	Coal	Petroleum	Natural gas	Nuclear electricity	Hydro electricity	Total†	Coal†	Petroleum†	Natural gas	Nuclear electricity	Hydro electricity
1968	307.0	164.5	125.9	4.3	10.1	2.2	306.4	164.1	125.7	4.3	10.1	2·2
1969	317.7	161.1	135.7	8.4	10.5	2.0	315.1	159.6	134.6	8.4	10.5	2.0
1970	328.0	154.4	145.6	16.0	9.4	2.6	327.9	154.2	145.7	16.0	9.4	2.6
1971	323.3	138.7	147.3	25.8	9.7	1.8	324.4	139.1	148.0	25.8	9.7	1.8
1972	327.7	120.9	157.6	36.7	10.5	2.0	327.6	120.9	157.5	36.7	10.5	2.0
1973	342.3	131.3	159.4	39.7	9.9	2.0	343.8	131.6	160.6	39.7	9.9	2.0
	Unadjusted							Seasonally adjusted (annual rate)				
1973 Jan.-May	150.6	56.9	70.3	17.9	4.6	0.9	342.5	131.3	160.2	37.5	10.3	2.2
1974 Jan.- May	135.6	44.0	63.4	21.8	5.3	1.1	315.6	106.0	145.4	45.2	12.1	2.3
Per cent change	−10.0	−22.6	−9.8	+21.7	+16.4	+11.3	−7.9	−19.3	−9.2	+20.5	+17.2	+5.1
1973 May	25.6	10.0	11.9	2.9	0.7	0.1	361.4	136.9	173.2	39.3	9.4	2.0
1974 May	24.3	9.5	10.3	3.5	0.9	0.1	342.0	128.3	150.4	46.3	12.4	1.0
Per cent change	−5.2	−5.0	−12.9	+18.1	+31.9	−51.4	−5.4	−6.3	−13.2	+17.8	+32.1	−48.1

† Also temperature corrected.

TABLE 2 Inland energy consumption: heat supplied basis

Million therms

	Total primary energy	Used by fuel industries and losses in distribution	Final consumption						
			Total	Coal	Other solid fuels	Other coal derived fuels§	Petroleum	Gas†	Electricity
1968	78,816	23,647	55,169	13,613	6,507	732	24,063	4,434	5,820
1969	81,363	24,595	56,768	12,883	6,409	641	25,628	4,962	6,245
1970	83,481	25,541	57,940	11,839	6,008	621	27,198	5,720	6,554
1971	82,521	25,527	56,994	9,867	4,949	542	27,617	7,257	6,762
1972	83,847	25,796	58,051	8,085	4,612	513	28,634	9,193	7,014
1973 p	87,523	26,520	61,003	8,064	4,743	586	29,623	10,495	7,492
1972 1st quarter	22,695	6,853	15,842	2,001	1,060	92	7,936	2,754	1,999
2nd quarter	19,849	6,006	13,843	2,004	1,157	140	6,855	2,047	1,640
3rd quarter	17,524	5,464	12,060	1,716	1,166	132	6,043	1,608	1,980
4th quarter	23,779	7,473	16,306	2,364	1,229	149	7,800	2,784	1,395
1973 1st quarter	25,017	7,532	17,485	2,336	1,221	147	8,310	3,256	2,215
2nd quarter	20,436	6,163	14,273	1,950	1,157	155	6,989	2,290	1,732
3rd quarter p	17,886	5,484	12,402	1,645	1,134	151	6,256	1,745	1,471
4th quarter p	24,184	7,341	16,843	2,133	1,231	133	8,068	3,204	2,074
1974 1st quarter p	22,177	6,515	15,662	1,459	914	88	7,452	3,751	1,998

§ Coke oven gas, creosote/pitch mixtures and other liquid fuels derived from coal.

† Town gas and natural gas supplied direct.

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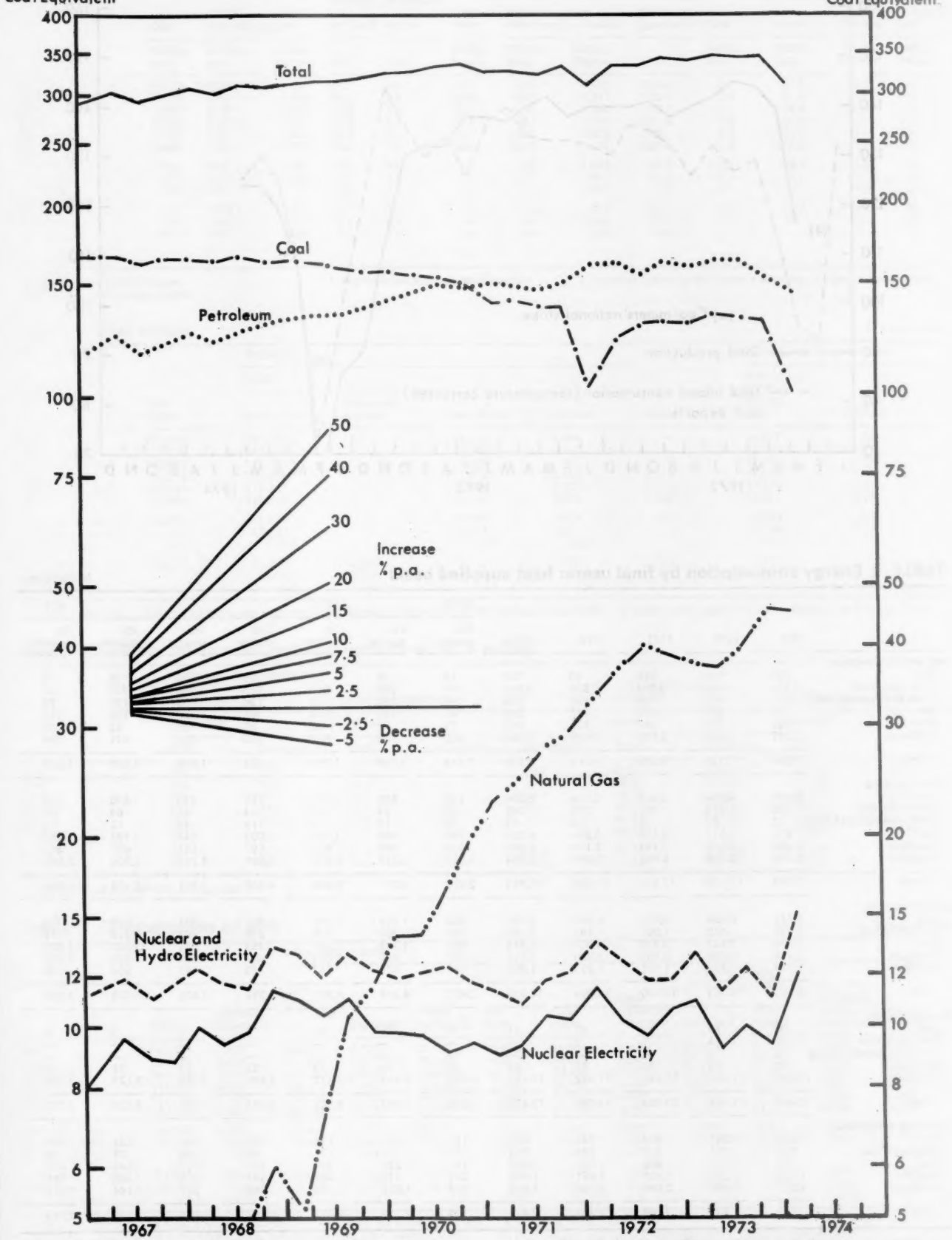
INLAND ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Seasonally adjusted annual rates

(Coal Petroleum and Total Consumption have also been temperature Corrected)



COAL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

(Seasonally adjusted annual rates)

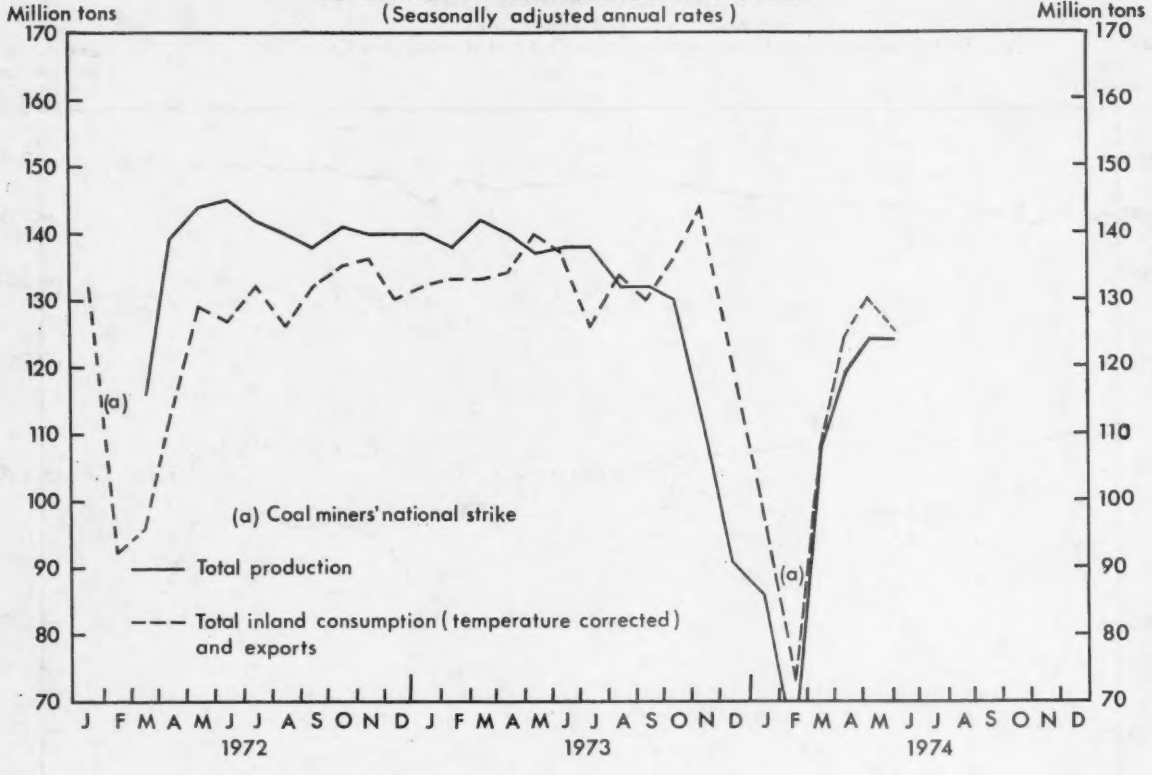


TABLE 3 Energy consumption by final users: heat supplied basis

Million therms

						1972		1973				1974
	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973 p	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter p
Iron and steel industry												
Coal	240	210	154	93	100	18	29	31	18	15	36	23
Other solid fuel	3,521	3,485	3,049	2,899	3,081	774	786	810	755	753	763	546
Other coal derived fuels §	557	553	490	459	523	122	132	133	136	133	121	76
Gas †	174	244	343	437	394	92	145	104	97	87	106	110
Electricity	368	378	349	335	362	79	91	92	92	86	92	85
Petroleum	2,227	2,328	2,185	2,089	2,066	430	553	586	505	434	541	489
Total	7,087	7,198	6,570	6,312	6,526	1,515	1,736	1,756	1,603	1,508	1,659	1,329
Other industries												
Coal	5,332	4,824	3,908	2,954	3,056	638	839	833	718	635	870	510
Other solid fuel	358	375	267	229	245	58	64	63	64	49	69	51
Other coal derived fuels §	72	62	52	54	63	10	17	14	19	18	12	12
Gas †	873	1,172	2,118	3,251	4,200	767	968	1,055	1,009	944	1,192	1,230
Electricity	2,032	2,105	2,154	2,176	2,365	514	596	622	587	551	605	498
Petroleum	8,386	8,945	8,982	9,294	9,324	1,687	2,727	2,813	2,091	1,714	2,706	2,596
Total	17,053	17,483	17,481	17,958	19,253	3,674	5,211	5,400	4,488	3,911	5,454	4,897
Domestic sector												
Coal	6,141	5,654	4,829	4,209	4,194	903	1,243	1,248	1,057	891	998	732
Other solid fuel	1,682	1,483	1,307	1,188	1,134	262	308	276	275	263	320	249
Gas †	3,211	3,542	3,930	4,509	4,815	603	1,348	1,740	953	561	1,561	1,978
Electricity	2,464	2,625	2,763	2,960	3,114	497	840	1,024	687	508	895	1,032
Petroleum	1,222	1,335	1,321	1,523	1,668	187	475	612	320	182	554	525
Total	14,720	14,639	14,150	14,389	14,925	2,452	4,214	4,900	3,292	2,405	4,328	4,516
Transport sector												
Coal	80	70	52	30	27	6	10	10	6	3	8	6
Other solid fuel	15	14	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other coal derived fuels §	12	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Electricity	93	94	94	92	89	22	24	23	22	22	22	22
Petroleum	10,466	11,002	11,483	11,962	12,760	3,207	2,993	2,973	3,265	3,399	3,123	2,749
Total	10,666	11,186	11,634	12,086	12,876	3,235	3,027	3,006	3,293	3,424	3,153	2,777
Other final consumers												
Coal	1,090	1,081	924	799	687	151	243	214	151	101	221	188
Other solid fuel	833	651	321	294	283	72	71	72	63	69	79	68
Gas †	704	762	866	996	1,086	146	323	357	231	153	345	433
Electricity	1,288	1,352	1,402	1,451	1,562	283	429	454	344	304	460	361
Petroleum	3,327	3,588	3,646	3,766	3,805	532	1,052	1,326	808	527	1,144	1,093
Total	7,242	7,434	7,159	7,304	7,423	1,184	2,118	2,423	1,597	1,154	2,249	2,143

§ Coke oven gas, creosote /pitch mixtures and other liquid fuels derived from coal.

† Town gas and natural gas supplied direct.

TABLE 4 Production and net arrivals of principal fuels

	Production of principal fuels									Net arrivals			
	Primary fuels					Secondary fuels					Petroleum		
	Coal	Crude petroleum §§	Natural gas	Electricity generated† Nuclear §	Hydro	Solid fuels	Refined petroleum‡	Gas available	Electricity generated	Coal	Crude	Refined	Natural gas
	Million tons	Million tons	Million therms	TWh	TWh	Million tons	Million tons	Million therms	TWh	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million therms
1968	167.2	0.09	811	27.7	3.6	27.2	77.9	4,901	209.4	−2.7	81.8	8.0	396
1969	153.2	0.10	1,938	29.1	3.3	25.9	86.2	5,517	223.4	−3.5	91.4	6.1	416
1970	144.8	0.15	4,153	26.0	4.5	24.3	95.7	6,350	233.7	−3.1	99.4	2.3	333
1971	147.0	0.20	6,901	27.5	3.4	21.8	99.1	8,080	241.3	1.5	104.5	2.1	332
1972	119.9	0.32	9,958	29.4	3.4	19.1	100.5	10,625	248.1	3.2	102.5	4.6	306
1973	129.9	0.36	10,812	28.0	3.9	19.4	107.3	11,645	264.6	−1.0	110.5	1.1	293
1973 March	14.9	0.04	1,041	3.2	0.4	1.9	8.9	1,264	28.9	−0.1	9.3	0.6	6
April	10.7	0.03	923	2.2	0.3	1.5	8.7	973	21.3	−0.1	9.2	0.1	19
May	11.5	0.03	795	2.0	0.2	1.5	8.4	821	19.0	−0.1	9.3	0.6	25
1974 March p	7.2	0.04	1,337	3.7	0.5	1.2	9.5	1,618	27.5	0.2	10.2	0.4	25
April p	9.1	0.03	1,101	2.8	0.2	1.4	9.1	1,066	19.7	..	10.3	0.1	19
May p	10.4	0.03	957	2.6	0.1	1.3	9.5	941	18.6	..	..	..	12
June p	11.7	..	..	..	..	1.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

§ Generation for public supply.
§§ Including natural gas liquids.
† Also included in secondary electricity.
‡ Including feedstock for further processing at petro-chemical plants.

TABLE 5 Coal supply

Thousand tons

		Production					Tonnage lost (deep-mined) †	
		Total‡						
	Total supply	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Deep-mined	Opencast	Imports	Recognised holidays and rest days	Disputes
1968	167,235	167,235		157,215	6,864	—	13,277	286
1969	153,234	153,234		144,241	6,320	—	12,137	2,913
1970	144,869	144,791		134,526	7,760	78	11,689	3,103
1971	151,255	147,081		134,322	10,498	4,174	11,045	4,734
1972	124,846	119,927		107,836	9,815	4,919	10,244	22,400
1973	131,589	129,940		118,150	9,970	1,649	10,313	5,569
1973 Jan.-June	73,405	72,614		66,963	4,874	791	3,049	540
1974 Jan.-June p	..	47,784		42,564	4,370	..	3,106	15,766
Per cent change	..	−34.2		−36.4	−10.3	..	+1.9	+
1973 June	13,077	12,899	13,260	11,772	939	178	1,330	44
1974 June p	..	11,671	11,870	10,675	846	..	1,178	34
Per cent change	..	−9.5	−10.5	−9.3	−9.9	..	−11.4	−22.7

† NCB mines only. ‡ Including slurry etc. recovered and disposed of other than by the National Coal Board. ¶ Coal miners national strike 10 February to 9 March 1974.

TABLE 6 Colliery manpower and productivity at NCB mines

	Number of wage-earners on colliery books at end of period		Absence percentage			Average output per manshift†		Recruitment	Wastage
	Thousands		Per cent			cwt.		Number	
	Total	Underground	Total	Voluntary	Involuntary	Overall	At the face		
1968	325	257	18.1	4.7	13.4	41.70	129.33	15,262	72,519
1969	300	235	18.3	4.8	13.5	43.45	136.96	23,346	48,295
1970	283	221	19.8	4.5	15.3	44.10	141.80	25,109	41,581
1971	279	218	18.1	4.4	13.7	43.94	143.08	28,010	32,309
1972	266	210	16.6	3.9	12.7	43.78	144.35	13,255	26,114
1973	245	..	..	..	..	45.01	..	17,402	37,961
1973 June	259	204	15.4	3.4	12.0	45.93	154.75	1,351	3,578
1974 June p	245	194	13.5	3.5	10.0	43.82	153.45	2,371	2,225

† Excluding capital working and tip coal.

TABLE 7 Consumption of coal

Thousand tons

			Inland consumption						Colliery disposals			
	Total	Overseas shipments	Total inland consumption	Collieries	Power stations §§	Gas works	Coke ovens	Other conversion industries	Industry ¶	House coal §†	Anthracite and dry † steam coal	Miscellaneous‡
	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons	Million tons
1968	167,185	2,678	164,507	2,420	73,191	10,646	24,934	3,474	22,585	21,353	1,860	4,044
1969	164,615	3,456	161,159	2,032	75,883	6,867	25,373	3,846	21,367	19,745	1,883	4,163
1970	157,548	3,141	154,407	1,886	76,017	4,212	24,940	4,084	19,304	17,882	1,990	4,092
1971	141,330	2,625	138,705	1,556	71,696	1,826	23,182	4,406	15,581	15,366	1,621	3,471
1972	122,713	1,768	120,945	1,383	65,611	566	20,152	4,475	11,478	12,569	1,756	2,952
1973	133,955	2,667	131,288	1,359	75,628	504	21,543	3,550	11,890	12,519	1,755	2,540
1973 Jan.-June	69,135	1,288	67,847	771	38,534	293	11,169	1,854	6,029	6,887	959	1,351
1974 Jan.-June p	55,221	568	54,653	580	31,793	85	8,832	900	5,134	5,563	589	1,177
Per cent change	−20.1	−55.9	−19.4	−24.8	−17.5	−71.0	−20.1	−51.5	..	..	..	−12.9
1973 June	11,150	184	10,966	124	5,792	46	2,119	324	983	1,234	176	168
1974 June p	10,744	126	10,618	107	5,538	10	2,096	226	1,186	1,189	96	170
Per cent change	−3.6	−31.5	−3.2	−13.7	−4.4	−78.3	−1.1	−30.2	..	−3.6	−45.5	+1.2

† Prior to April 1973 the figures relate to merchants' disposals to the domestic market.
‡ Including coal used for transport purposes and shipments to the Channel Islands.
¶ Prior to October 1973 the figures relate to actual consumption.
§ Including miners' coal.
§§ Public supply electricity and railway and transport power stations.

TABLE 8 Stocks of coal (†) Great Britain

End of period — Thousand tons

	Total	Distributed					Undistributed		
		Total distributed stocks	Power stations	Gas works	Coke ovens	Miscel-laneous	Total undistributed stocks	Opencast sites and central stocking grounds	Collieries
1968	42,589	14,554	12,490	726	1,107	231	28,035	4,234	23,801
1969	31,416	12,935	11,018	461	1,231	225	18,481	3,159	15,322
1970	18,729	11,627	9,575	276	1,434	342	7,102	1,836	5,266
1971	28,211	17,982	15,712	72	1,777	421	10,229	3,256	6,973
1972	29,979	19,045	16,781	50	1,890	314	10,934	3,376	7,558
1973	27,486	16,766	14,537	27	1,937	265	10,720	3,150	7,570
1973 June	34,216	20,924	18,319	37	2,302	266	13,292	3,417	9,875
1974 June p	20,472	13,185	11,200	6	1,806	173	7,287	2,704	4,583

(†) Excluding distributed stocks held in merchants' yards, etc., mainly for the domestic market, and stocks held by the industrial sector.

TABLE 9 Gas: sources of supply and send-out by the public gas supply system

	Natural gas supply			Fuel used for all purposes		Gas sent out		
	Net total into system	Indigenous	Arrivals	Coal	Oil	Total	Town gas	Natural gas for direct supply
	Million therms			Thousand tons		Million therms		
1968	1,130	740	390	10,646	5,455	4,836	4,745	91
1969	2,267	1,856	411	6,885	5,525	5,437	4,973	464
1970	4,342	4,023	319	4,212	3,590	6,301	4,787	1,514
1971	6,977	6,660	317	1,770	1,881	8,061	4,069	3,992
1972	10,071	9,775	296	559	1,550	10,614	3,415	7,199
1973	10,916	10,639	277	503	1,739	11,620	2,434	9,186
1973 Jan.-May	4,890	4,801	89	246	1,041	5,325	1,340	3,985
1974 Jan.-May p	5,990	5,884	106	75	612	6,212	926	5,286
Per cent change	+22.5	+22.6	+19.1	−69.5	−41.2	+16.7	−30.9	+32.6
1973 May	766	746	20	42	124	821	182	639
1974 May p	922	906	16	10	61	941	114	827
Per cent change	+20.4	+21.4	−20.0	−76.2	−50.8	+14.6	−37.4	+29.4

TABLE 10 Generation of electricity by the public electricity supply system

	Primary fuel demand						Electricity generated				
								By steam plant			
	Total††	Coal	Oil	Natural gas	Nuclear electricity	Hydro-* electricity	Total†	Nuclear	Other	Electricity sent out	Total electricity available
	Million tons of coal or coal equivalent						GWh				
United Kingdom											
1968	95.20	73.58	10.69	—	8.63	1.91	204,477	24,056	175,873	189,241	193,526
1969	100.75	76.05	13.81	0.14	9.01	1.74	218,402	25,271	188,177	201,970	206,295
1970	107.18	76.17	20.81	0.21	7.73	2.26	228,236	21,870	199,869	210,904	215,488
1971	105.85	71.18	24.16	0.95	8.05	1.51	235,740	23,209	207,808	218,000	222,374
1972	109.38	65.30	31.25	2.26	8.89	1.58	242,745	25,303	212,196	224,700	229,232
1973	114.63	75.57	28.04	1.03	8.22	1.71	258,792	23,657	229,960	241,279	244,662
1973 Jan.-May	51.19	32.70	13.41	0.33	3.90	0.82	116,993	11,196	103,445	108,820	110,640
1974 Jan.-May p	46.13	26.32	12.49	1.74	4.63	0.92	105,578	13,249	89,810	97,888	99,696
Per cent change	−9.9	−19.5	−6.9	(+)	+18.7	+12.1	−9.8	+18.3	−13.2	−10.0	−9.9
1973 May	8.29	5.47	2.08	0.05	0.59	0.09	18,595	1,683	16,574	17,263	17,553
1974 May p	7.91	5.22	1.63	0.23	0.80	0.03	18,186	2,306	15,683	16,795	17,079
Per cent change	−4.5	−4.7	−21.3	(+)	+35.8	−67.0	−2.2	+37.0	−5.4	−2.7	−2.7
England and Wales											
1968	84.36	67.30	8.86	—	7.73	0.47	182,244	21,549	159,611	168,817	169,884
1969	89.35	69.16	11.61	0.14	8.05	0.39	193,474	22,582	169,470	179,307	180,887
1970	94.47	69.61	17.45	0.21	6.79	0.41	200,421	19,230	179,184	185,505	188,594
1971	93.30	64.95	20.07	0.95	7.19	0.14	208,070	20,679	186,144	192,738	195,127
1972	95.63	58.24	26.74	2.26	8.08	0.31	212,910	23,010	187,951	197,199	200,239
1973	99.39	67.14	23.56	1.03	7.45	0.15	225,230	21,417	202,226	208,995	212,580
1973 Jan.-May	44.34	28.97	11.41	0.33	3.53	0.08	101,602	10,125	90,843	94,428	96,183
1974 Jan.-May p	39.89	23.20	10.61	1.74	4.24	0.06	91,865	12,122	79,135	85,099	86,263
Per cent change	−10.0	−19.9	−6.9	(+)	+20.0	−20.8	−9.6	+19.7	−12.9	−9.9	−10.3
1973 May	7.22	4.86	1.78	0.05	0.51	0.01	16,218	1,474	14,615	15,050	15,196
1974 May p	6.95	4.67	1.33	0.23	0.72	−0.01	16,030	2,097	13,870	14,812	14,907
Per cent change	−3.7	−3.8	−25.0	(+)	+41.1	(−)	−1.2	+42.3	−5.1	−1.6	−1.9

† Including generation by oil-engine and hydro electric plant. †† Including coke. * Including net imports.

TABLE 11 Plant capacity of the public electricity supply industry

Megawatts

	United Kingdom			England and Wales		
	Output capacity			Output capacity		
	At end of period	New plant brought into commission during period†	Maximum load during period	At end of period	New plant brought into commission during period†	Maximum load during period
1968	51,029	4,173	42,884	44,372	3,439	37,738
1969	52,735	2,777	43,885	46,035	2,661	38,153
1970	57,237	5,791	44,161	49,335	4,511	38,651
1971	61,972	5,178	45,897	53,559	4,592	39,927
1972	65,067	3,618	46,912	56,055	3,029	40,612
1973	67,680	3,156	46,024	58,369	2,589	39,671
1973 May	65,542	—	37,540	56,412	—	32,560
1974 May p	67,344	5	36,098	58,026	—	30,722

† Including revisions to interim ratings.

TABLE 12 Electricity generated outside the public electricity supply system Great Britain

GWh

	Iron and steel	Engineering and other metal trades	Food, drink and tobacco	Coal mining	Chemical and allied trades: Nuclear power stations	Chemical and allied trades: Other†	Textiles, leather and clothing	Paper, printing and stationery	Other industries (including gas and water-works)	Total industry	Transport under-takings	Total
1968	2,779	1,412	376	623	3,655	5,753	568	2,857	598	18,621	625	19,246
1969	2,835	1,328	383	585	3,854	6,769	545	2,970	643	19,912	685	20,597
1970	2,700	1,508	375	478	4,142	6,846	564	2,965	637	20,215	664	20,879
1971	2,888	1,344	410	411	4,339	6,987	535	2,671	629	20,214	677	20,891
1972	2,587	1,320	409	420	4,098	7,408	458	2,786	679	20,165	689	20,854
1973 p	2,707	2,716	458	492	4,339	7,859	498	2,763	716	22,548	702	23,250
1972 1st quarter	743	319	140	77	1,255	1,925	105	710	188	5,462	178	5,640
2nd quarter	618	318	53	117	907	1,916	119	679	160	4,887	167	5,054
3rd quarter	550	332	45	100	950	1,766	112	633	149	4,637	163	4,800
4th quarter	676	351	171	126	986	1,801	122	764	182	5,179	181	5,360
1973 1st quarter	798	624	108	140	1,157	2,060	133	772	203	5,995	194	6,189
2nd quarter	641	565	63	127	1,001	1,843	127	692	169	5,228	175	5,403
3rd quarter	593	672	62	119	1,105	1,743	114	584	156	5,148	162	5,310
4th quarter p	675	855	225	106	1,076	2,213	124	715	188	6,177	171	6,348

† Including production by the mineral oil refining industry.

TABLE 13 Sales of gas and electricity by the public supply systems

	Gas					Electricity				
	Total	Iron and steel industry	Other industries	Domestic	Other	Total	Iron and steel industry	Other industries	Domestic	Other
	Million therms					GWh				
1968	4,443	140	820	2,829	654	177,096	11,000	62,826	66,655	36,615
1969	5,000	174	911	3,211	704	188,834	11,693	65,742	72,185	39,214
1970	5,780	244	1,232	3,542	762	197,751	12,004	67,489	77,213	41,045
1971	7,520	343	2,381	3,930	866	203,433	10,837	69,371	80,674	42,551
1972	9,787	437	3,845	4,509	996	210,417	10,774	68,967	86,889	43,787
1973	10,729	396	4,435	4,815	1,083	225,110	11,646	75,298	91,232	46,934
1972 1st quarter	2,883	102	853	1,623	305	59,534	2,434	16,267	28,122	12,711
2nd quarter	2,223	98	968	935	222	49,369	2,866	17,408	19,505	9,590
3rd quarter	1,738	92	897	603	146	42,102	2,543	16,371	14,595	8,593
4th quarter	2,943	145	1,127	1,348	323	59,412	2,931	18,921	24,667	12,893
1973 1st quarter	3,305	104	1,104	1,740	357	66,578	2,975	19,790	30,011	13,802
2nd quarter	2,328	98	1,046	953	231	52,481	2,944	18,738	20,141	10,658
3rd quarter	1,774	87	973	561	153	44,489	2,747	17,563	14,875	9,304
4th quarter	3,322	107	1,312	1,561	342	61,562	2,980	19,207	26,205	13,170
1974 1st quarter p	4,091	110	1,570	1,978	433	59,444	2,668	15,708	30,239	10,829

TABLE 14 Refinery throughput and output of finished petroleum products

Thousand tons

	Through put of crude/ and process oils	Refinery fuel	Total output of finished products††	Gases: Butane and propane	Gases: Other petroleum	Aviation spirit and aviation wide-cut gasoline	Motor spirit	Industrial and white spirits	Kerosene: Burning oil†	Kerosene: Vaporising oil	Gas/diesel oil	Fuel oil	Lubricating oils	Bitumen
1968	81,787	5,073	75,832	1,022	586	430	9,379	247	4,583	69	16,874	33,718	1,019	1,726
1969	90,251	5,547	83,743	1,129	507	312	10,065	195	5,310	56	19,170	37,661	1,183	1,695
1970	100,301	5,933	93,200	1,163	364	287	11,167	186	5,724	36	22,159	42,181	1,303	1,886
1971	103,678	6,086	96,693	1,217	280	180	12,324	129	6,108	40	24,068	42,491	1,407	2,061
1972	105,290	6,319	97,797	1,440	363	416	13,417	123	6,689	31	25,133	40,355	1,312	1,972
1973	112,532	6,941	104,280	1,629	388	371	14,608	148	7,118	34	27,413	41,362	1,453	2,190
1973 Jan.-May	45,379	2,781	42,094	672	179	171	5,913	58	3,007	10	10,754	16,863	576	889
1974 Jan.-May p	47,943	2,990	44,447	709	150	109	5,876	84	3,024	8	11,910	17,551	605	897
Per cent change	+5.7	+7.5	+5.6	+5.5	−16.3	−36.0	−0.6	+44.6	+0.6	25.2	+10.7	+4.1	+5.0	+0.9
1973 May	8,921	572	8,236	129	27	27	1,304	12	579	2	2,203	3,072	139	209
1974 May p	9,899	598	9,221	148	22	37	1,343	16	583	1	2,542	3,418	120	220
Per cent change	+11.0	+4.6	+12.0	+14.7	−17.7	+34.4	+3.0	+32.4	+0.7	−46.5	+15.4	+11.3	−13.5	+5.5

† Including aviation turbine fuel.

†† Including output of products not shown separately namely naphtha (light distillate feedstock) and other feedstock, waxes and miscellaneous production: refinery losses have been excluded.

PETROLEUM

Refinery output, Inland deliveries and bunkers, Shipments & Arrivals of refined products
(Seasonally adjusted annual rates)

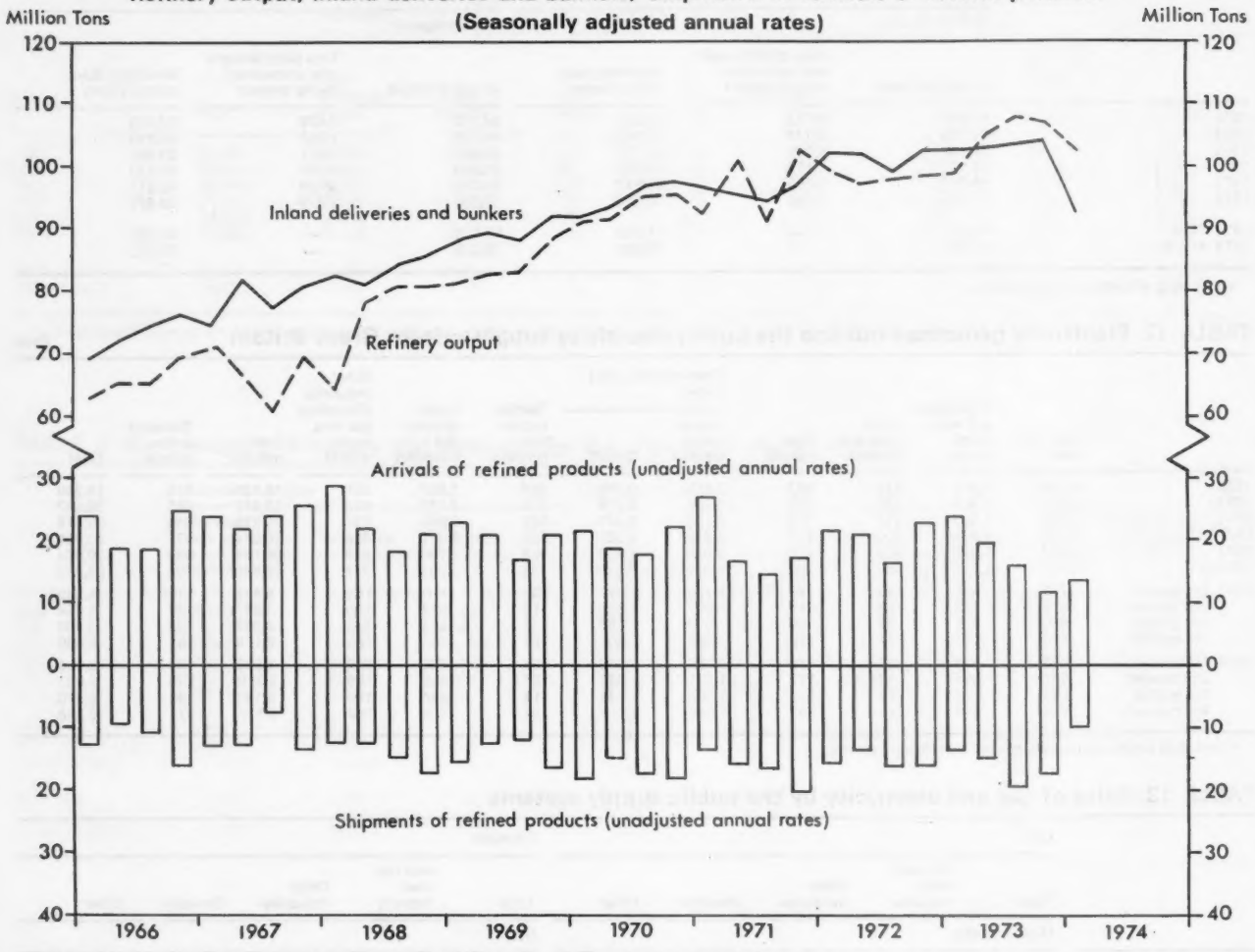


TABLE 15 Deliveries of petroleum products for inland consumption

Thousand tons

	Total §	Aviation Spirit and aviation wide-cut gasoline	Motor spirit	Industrial and white spirits	Kerosene: Aviation turbine fuel	Kerosene: Burning oil	Kerosene: Vaporising oil	Gas/diesel oil: Derv fuel	Gas/diesel oil: Other	Fuel oil †	Lubricating oils	Bitumen	Paraffin wax
1968	77,746	445	12,808	361	2,721	1,967	74	4,577	9,025	30,611	1,134	1,828	55
1969	83,779	377	13,231	241	2,921	2,208	64	4,791	10,349	33,393	1,208	1,812	58
1970	89,404	224	14,010	181	3,202	2,442	53	4,955	11,918	37,975	1,157	2,036	56
1971	90,073	145	14,727	183	3,690	2,525	47	5,104	12,370	38,772	1,129	2,173	61
1972	96,157	139	15,648	211	3,867	2,882	40	5,172	14,874	40,654	1,095	2,169	65
1973	97,774	133	16,659	230	4,135	3,134	35	5,569	14,861	38,824	1,166	2,420	74
1973 Jan.-May	44,244	56	6,695	94	1,580	1,609	14	2,284	7,313	18,606	482	975	28
1974 Jan.-May p	40,181	41	6,337	88	1,355	1,387	11	2,247	6,235	16,489	424	953	39
Per cent change	−9.2	−25.6	−5.3	−6.4	−14.2	−13.8	−17.3	−1.6	−14.7	−11.4	−12.0	−2.3	+37.4
1973 May	8,106	15	1,457	20	377	211	4	482	1,137	3,209	105	242	6
1974 May p	7,121	13	1,434	18	330	176	3	471	974	2,570	86	227	7
Per cent change	−12.1	−10.8	−1.6	−10.2	−12.4	−16.9	−31.4	−2.5	−14.4	−19.9	−18.2	−6.5	+13.0

§ Including products not shown separately. Excluding fuel consumed by refiners. † Excluding refinery consumption.

TABLE 16 Stocks of oil – end month

	Held by oil companies†		Power stations•
	Million tons	Estimated days supply‡	Million tons
1974 January	18.9	56	0.80
February	19.2	62	0.73
March	19.9	75	0.83
April	21.7	88	0.86
May	23.1	101	0.83
June p	24.7	106	0.80

† Includes stocks of the product equivalent of crude and process oils held at the refineries and products at various stages in the distribution system.
• Fuel oil held at main oil burning stations in Great Britain.
‡ With effect from March estimated days supply has been based on forecast demand for the ensuing months taking into account seasonal factors.

The metric change

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Production of man-made fibres in May

In the three months ended May 1974 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted, was estimated to have been 2 per cent higher than in the three months ended February 1974. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in the period January-May 1974 was 4 per cent lower than in the corresponding period of 1973; output of continuous filament decreased by 7 per cent and staple fibre decreased by 2 per cent. Output in May was affected by the industrial stoppages in Northern Ireland.

Man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tons

	Total	Continuous filament (singles)	Staple fibre
1968	539.1	241.8	297.4
1969	553.9	252.5	301.5
1970	599.4	257.6	341.9
1971	613.1	276.4	336.7
1972	626.5	264.0	362.5
1973	730.8	305.6	425.3
1973 1st quarter	183.5	78.1	105.4
2nd quarter	186.1	79.4	106.7
3rd quarter	171.4	70.6	100.8
4th quarter	189.9	77.5	112.4
1974 1st quarter	174.0	69.9	104.1
1973 April	59.4	24.3	35.1
May	62.5	26.6	35.9
June	64.2	28.5	35.7
July	59.5	24.1	35.4
August	55.0	22.0	33.0
September	56.8	24.5	32.3
October	67.1	27.3	39.7
November	63.0	25.9	37.1
December	59.8	24.3	35.5
1974 January	57.1	21.7	35.4
February	54.9	22.4	32.5
March	62.1	25.9	36.2
April	63.9	25.6	38.3
May	55.9	24.9	31.0

Index of the volume of production

1970 = 100

1968	87
1969	92
1970	100
1971	106
1972	107
1973	127

	Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1973 1st quarter	129	127
2nd quarter	131	128
3rd quarter	118	125
4th quarter	130	129
1974 1st quarter	120	117
1973 April	125	124
May	128	123
June	140	136
July	120	126
August	112	127
September	124	125
October	137	135
November	134	129
December	120	124
1974 January	112	110
February	122	120
March	125	121
April	131	129
May	116	112

The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months but not for holidays or other seasonal variations. The seasonally adjusted figures are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1973, and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1974 are incorporated.

Tel. 01-212 0531 or 01-212 6474.

Sales by wholesale textile houses

Sales by wholesale textile houses in May showed an increase of 8 per cent on a year earlier, compared with increases of 25 per cent in March and 5 per cent in April.

The value of stocks at the end of May was 19 per cent higher than a year earlier.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

	Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966	110	*–3*	..	..
1967	104	*–5*	..	..
1968	108	*4*	..	..
1969	103	*–5*	..	..
1970	107	*4*	..	..
1971	115	*8*	..	..
1972	121	*5*	..	..
1973	134	*11*	..	..
1972 2nd quarter	111	*4*	146	*8*
3rd quarter	123	*7*	154	*4*
4th quarter	149	*6*	169	*12*
1973 1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974 1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
1973 May	114	*9*	173	*15*
June	121	*14*	171	*17*
July	107	*5*	173	*15*
August	124	*9*	179	*19*
September	159	*3*	173	*12*
October	184	*12*	162	*16*
November	154	*13*	203	*21*
December	151	*4*	204	*21*
1974 January	83	*–4*	179	*11*
February	135	*8*	184	*9*
March	182	*25*	189	*3*
April	139	*5*	180	*11*
May	123	*8*	206	*19*

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks(‡)
	May 1974	January-May 1974	May 1974
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	—	11	16
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	–19	–11	–2
Women's underwear	24	26	23
Women's hose and children's socks	–14	–2	5
Women's millinery	–24	—	14
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	–7	8	16
Children's wear	–3	19	–12
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	19	12	–1
Gloves	–28	20	3
Piece-goods and nets	–19	–10	49
Household textiles	8	21	114
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	12	6	30
Boots and shoes	18	20	61
Total†	8	9	19

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Notes

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, The Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).

Engineering industries sales and orders (SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX)

The provisional trend estimates and seasonally adjusted volume index numbers of engineering sales and orders up to March 1974 are published in the accompanying table. These should be the last indices in this series to be published on the 1963 base and accordingly a final back series from 1969 onwards is to be published in the March Business Monitor (PM 33-36). The 1963-based series is to be replaced by a 1970-based series, which will be initially published up to April 1974 in this journal in August. A description of the rebasing of these index numbers will also be published shortly.

The table below shows that the seasonally adjusted index of total

Index numbers for the combined engineering industries (SIC Orders vii, viii and ix) (a)

Volume index numbers: Orders-on-hand, December 1963 unadjusted = 100 Net new orders and sales, 1963 average monthly sales = 100

	Total			Home			Export		
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	New net orders	Sales
Trend Estimates									
1972 December	127	176	160	110	177	162	182	172	156
1973 January	129	182	163	113	184	165	185	178	157
February	132	186	165	115	189	168	188	180	158
March	135	189	168	118	193	171	192	182	160
April	138	193	170	121	196	172	196	185	163
May	141	196	171	123	198	173	201	191	166
June	145	200	173	126	199	174	208	201	169
July	148	204	175	129	201	176	215	211	172
August	152	208	178	131	203	179	223	221	175
September	156	210	179	134	203	181	231	228	176
October	159	209	180	136	200	181	240	231	177
November	163	206	179	138	196	179	249	232	177
December	166	203	178	139	190	177	258	234	179
1974 January	169	199	176	140	183	174	266	239	181
February	171	195	175	141	176	172	274	244	183
March	173	192	174	142	170	170	281	250	184
Percentage increase (c) Dec. 1973-March 1974	4.5	−5.0	−2.0	2.0	−10.5	−4.0	9.0	6.5	3.0
Seasonally adjusted									
1969	121	135	130	104	130	129	179	146	130
1970	121	136	136	104	132	132	181	146	145
1971	118	133	135	101	129	131	174	141	145
1972	126	146	145	110	149	147	182	140	142
1973	167	200	174	140	198	176	258	207	170
1973 1st quater	135	191	169	118	194	172	192	182	160
2nd quarter	144	193	169	125	195	171	209	189	165
3rd quarter	156	208	176	134	203	177	232	223	175
4th quarter	167	209	182	140	199	183	258	235	180
1974 1st quarter	173	192	173	140	171	170	287	244	182
1972 December	126	173	154	110	170	155	182	181	152
1973 January	129	192	166	113	195	168	185	185	161
February	132	191	167	116	195	171	189	184	159
March	135	188	172	118	192	177	192	178	161
April	138	188	163	121	190	165	196	184	158
May	140	181	170	123	187	172	197	164	163
June	144	211	175	125	207	176	209	219	173
July	148	212	178	129	210	177	215	216	180
August	153	207	175	132	200	175	223	226	172
September	156	206	177	134	198	179	232	226	173
October	158	194	181	134	182	183	239	223	177
November	163	230	187	138	224	190	249	245	181
December	167	205	177	140	192	176	258	238	181
1974 January	169	190	167	141	176	165	266	227	171
February	171	187	176	141	175	171	271	219	187
March	173	197	176	140	161	172	287	287	186
Oct.-Dec. 1973 (av).	167	209	182	140	199	183	258	235	180
Jan.-March 1974 (av.)	173	192	173	140	171	170	287	244	182
Percentage increase (b) (c)	4.0	−8.5	−5.0	—	−14.5	−7.0	11.5	4.0	1.0

(a) All figures are provisional.
(b) For orders on hand, the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period.
(c) The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point.

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sales fell on average by 5 per cent between the last quarter of 1973 and the first quarter of 1974. This reflects the fall of 7 per cent in sales in the home market mainly in consequence of the three-day week earlier this year, while export sales rose by 1 per cent during the same period. In the home market, although the trend of net new orders has declined by 10½ per cent between December and March, the total of new orders received during the first quarter of this year matched the volume of sales. In consequence the trend of home orders-on-hand has practically levelled off; the trend estimates showing only a slight rise, while the seasonally adjusted indices were unchanged between the first and second quarters.

The trend of export net new orders has increased by 6½ per cent between December 1973 and March 1974. This largely reflects a sharp rise in the provisional seasonally adjusted index for March. The inflow of export orders, however, had continued well above sales prior to the sharp increase in the latest month and export order books lengthened by 9 per cent from December to March. In both markets combined, the trend of net new orders over the same period fell by 5 per cent but, mainly owing to the continued buoyancy in export markets, the volume of total orders-on-hand grew by 4½ per cent in the three months up to March.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the Monthly Engineering Inquiry relating to March 1974. The response rate of 84 per cent to the inquiry for March is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for December, January and February, response rates for these months were 91, 93 and 90 per cent respectively.

Business Monitor PM 33-36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders) is obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £1 per annum. Volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and net new orders for total, home and export markets, for each of the three SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX (mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering respectively).

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Northern Ireland index of production

The provisional index of production for May 1974 is 113. This is a reduction of 56 points (33 per cent) on the index for May 1973.

The effect of the general industrial stoppage in the latter half of the month is reflected in the index numbers (with corresponding percentages) for the main industrials groups by comparison with May 1973. These are as follows: textiles 161 (−112 points; −41 per cent), clothing 87 (−49; −36 per cent), engineering and metals 55 (−64; −54 per cent), food, drink and tobacco 105 (−27; −20 per cent), timber and furniture 111 (−46; −29 per cent), mineral products 109 (−65; −37 per cent), other manufacturing industries 230 (−37; −14 per cent), gas, electricity and water 150 (−52; −26 per cent).

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 19 July 1974.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Golfocks	BR/E 37622/21/7/79	33	16 July	Target International Films Ltd.	Moving Picture Company Ltd.
Nasty Nastase	BR/E 37628/21/7/79	38	18 July	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Ribocco Films Ltd.
Review No. 11 – 27th Year	BR/E 37629/21/7/79	9	18 July	Data Film Distributors Ltd.	National Coal Board
Movietone News 2354	BR/E 37554/21/7/79	7	19 July	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
Movietone News 2354A	BR/E 37555/21/7/79	7	19 July	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			FOREIGN		
Bamboo Gods and Iron Men	F 37623	94	16 July	Eton Films Ltd.	American International Pictures Corporation
The Glory Stompers	F 37624	79	16 July	Eton Films Ltd.	American International Pictures Corporation
The Far West	F 37625	11	17 July	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures
Scalawag	F 37626	93	17 July	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Joel Productions Inc.
Great Lakes Country	F 37627	10	17 July	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures

Correction to the Register:
The registration number of the film 'Carry On Dick' registered on 10 June 1974, has been corrected to: BR/E 37611/14/7/79.

Amendments to the Register:
On 18 July 1974 the following amendments were made to the Register: the registration number of the film 'The Lusty Wives of Canterbury' registered on 2 January 1974, amended to EC 37196/6/1/79 and the name of maker corrected to Cinematografica Generale Italia, Rome.
The registration number of the film 'Decameron 3' registered on 28 February 1973 amended to EC 36665/4/3/78 and the name of maker corrected to Seven Films S.p.A. Rome.
The registration number of the film 'General Amin' registered on 1 July 1974, amended to EC 37545/7/7/79 and the name of maker corrected to Mara Films, Paris.

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Release dates of economic statistics to be published in August

This notice is issued by the Central Statistical Office on behalf of the Government Statistical Service and other organisations as a guide to the dates of publication of major economic series in August. The dates are those which Departments, or other organisations concerned, are aiming at, and would normally expect to meet. Exceptionally, there may be a delay resulting from unavoidable statistical problems of collection and compilation. Further inquiries about individual series should be addressed to the source named.

Publication date	Series	Method and time of release*	Source
AUGUST			
1 Thurs.	CBI Industrial Trends Survey (July)	PN	CBI
2 Fri.	UK official reserves (July)	PN	Treasury
	Capital issues and redemptions (July)	PN	Bank of England
5 Mon.	Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (June)	PN	Department of Industry
	Retail trade (June – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	Slum clearance (prov. – 1st qtr.) Housing starts and completions (prov. – June) House improvement grants (prov. – June)	PN	Department of the Environment
6 Tues.	Provisional figures of vehicle production and estimates of new car registrations (prov. – July)	PN	Department of Industry
7 Wed.	London clearing banks' monthly statement (mid-July)	PN	CLCB
	UK banks' eligible liabilities, reserve assets and reserve ratios (mid-July)	PN	Bank of England
8 Thurs.	Consolidated Fund and National Loans Fund (July)	London Gazette	Treasury
12 Mon.	Index of industrial production (June)	PN	CSO
	Retail trade (prov. – July)	PN	Department of Industry
	Turnover of catering trades (June)	PN	Department of Industry
	Wholesale price index numbers (July)	PN	Department of Industry
13 Tues.	Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (July)	PN	CSO Department of Trade
15 Thurs.	Preliminary estimate of gross domestic product based on output data (2nd qtr.)	PN	CSO
16 Fri.	Crude steel production (July)	PN	BSC/BISPA
	Retail prices index (July)	PN	Department of Employment
	Finished steel receipts, consumption and stock changes (prov. – 2nd qtr.)	PN	Department of Industry
	Building Societies' receipts and loans (July)	PN	BSA
19 Mon.	Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (end July) Monthly index of average earnings (June)	PN	Department of Employment
	UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-July)	PN	Bank of England
	Turnover of the motor trades (2nd qtr.)	PN	Department of Industry
21 Wed.	Consumers' expenditure (2nd qtr. – 2nd preliminary estimate)	PN	CSO
	Import and export unit value and volume index numbers; terms of trade (June)	PN	Department of Trade
22 Thurs.	Sales and orders in the engineering industries (April)	T and I	Department of Industry
	Unemployment (prov. – August) Unfilled vacancies (prov. – August)	PN	Department of Employment
	Car and commercial vehicle production (July – final)	PN	Department of Industry
	New vehicle registrations (July)	PN	Department of Environment
25 Sun.	National Savings monthly progress report (July)	PN	National Savings Committee
29 Thurs	Energy trends	T and I	Department of Energy
	Unemployment (final – July) Employment in production industries (June) Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (June) Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (July)	Gazette	Department of Employment
	Central government borrowing requirement (July)	Fin Stats	CSO/ Treasury
	Construction – new orders (2nd qtr.)	PN	Department of Environment
	Bricks and cement production (July)	PN	Department of Environment

*PN Press Notice.

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	30 May 1974
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	18 July 1974
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	18 Apr. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcy orders (Q)	6 June 1974
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 Mar. 1974
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	11 July 1974
Catering trades turnover (M)	11 July 1974
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Aug. 1973
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	30 May 1974
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	11 July 1974
Computers: UK market (Q)	24 May 1973
Construction work overseas (A)	11 Oct. 1973
Electronic capital equipment (Q)	21 June 1973
Energy trends (M)	This week
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	This week
Film industry:	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	4 July 1974
cinema admissions and takings (M)	18 July 1974
overseas payments and earnings (A)	9 Aug. 1973
registration of films (A)	31 Jan. 1974
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	2 May 1974
household consumption (Q)	11 Apr. 1974
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	27 June 1974
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	11 July 1974
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	14 Mar. 1974
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Furniture orders and deliveries (M)	This week
Hire-purchase business (M)	4 July 1974
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	This week
N. Ireland index (M)	This week
Wales index (Q)	11 Apr. 1974
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	30 Aug. 1973
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	6 June 1974
investment and earnings overseas (A)	13 June 1974
Machine tools: sales and orders (M)	13 June 1974
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	23 May 1974
production (M)	This week
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	23 May 1974
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	27 June 1974
estimated figures (M)	18 July 1974
motor trade turnover (Q)	23 May 1974
Office development permits (Q)	16 May 1974
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	27 June 1974
UK overseas trade in 1973	16 May 1974
unit value and volume index numbers (M)	18 July 1974
value: analysis of trends (Q)	16 May 1974
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	30 Aug. 1973
Retail prices index (M)	This week
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	4 July 1974
provisional figures	18 July 1974
sales, N. Ireland (M)	18 July 1974
stocks (M)	11 July 1974
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	27 June 1974
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	6 Dec. 1973
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	16 May 1974
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' (Q)	11 July 1974
retail (M)	11 July 1974
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	9 Aug. 1973
Textiles:	
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carpet sales (M)	11 July 1974
cotton industry production (M)	11 July 1974
hosiery production (M)	11 July 1974
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	4 July 1974
orders and deliveries (M)	21 Mar. 1974
wholesale houses' sales (M)	This week
wool exports (Q)	14 June 1973
wool output (M)	11 July 1974
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	This week
overseas travel and tourism (A)	21 Feb. 1974
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	4 Apr. 1974
index numbers (M)	11 July 1974

Departmental organisation etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representation overseas	4 July 1974
Business Monitor titles	6 Sept. 1973
Customs notices of interest to exporters	18 July 1974
ECGD local offices	23 May 1974
Guide to Departments	6 June 1974
Official Receivers' offices	18 July 1974
Programme of trade promotions	18 July 1974
Release dates of economic statistics	This week

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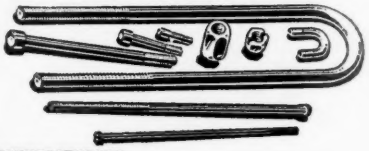

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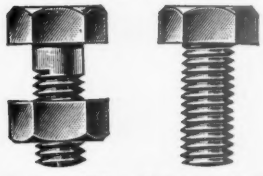

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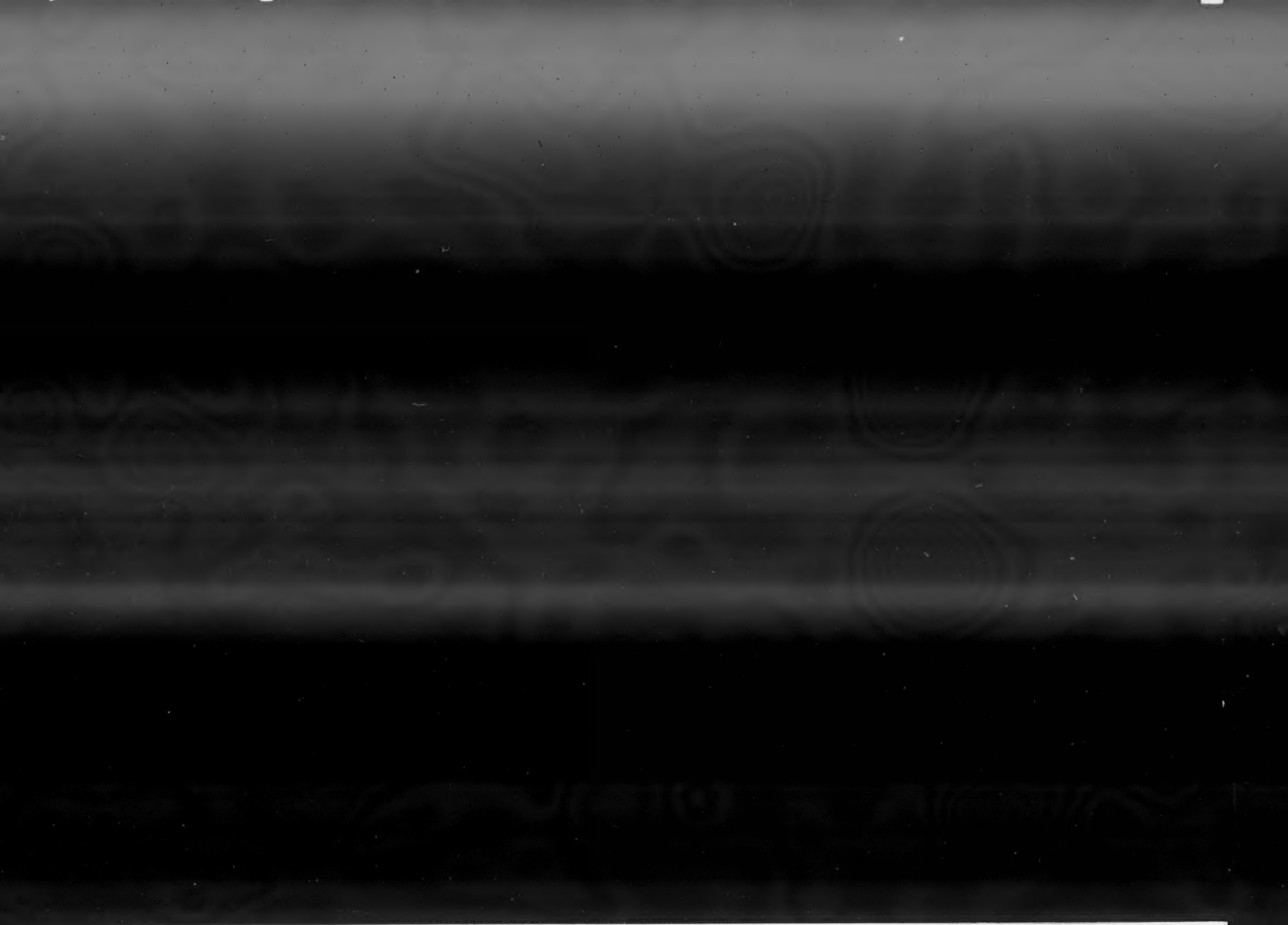
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